BENEATH THE TREES
WHERE NOBODY SEES
RITE OF SPRING
HORVATH • OTSMANE-ELHAOU

Welcome, Anchovy_Ahoy1923

WebLynx ONLINE

YOU HAVE MAIL

FRIENDS & CHAT

CALENDAR

WELCOME TO WEBLYNX

04/23/94

Headline News

- Quack Attack Drummer seeks damages from free online mp3 downloads.
- Mom&Pop Shops shutter after influx of big-box superstores.
- Reports of increased coyote activity alarms local small-town residents.

MUSIC NOW
DOWNLOAD FREE

Woodbrook VT

Partially Cloudy 73°

Fun Events Near You!

- Puppet Show Adds Second Night
- Corn Maze Deemed Offically Unsolvable
- Hiking Trails
- Visit Jeremiah's Junk Emporium

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EDITORS

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Rite Of Spring

Patrick Horvath

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Jake Williams

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ONE

"DANIEL BREWER...
"...WHITE DUCK, MALE...
& PRIMER
PRIMER
"...MISSING SINCE SEPTEMBER TWENTY-NINE, NINETEEN EIGHTY-SIX.

WE'VE HAD THIS CONVERSATION A DOZEN TIMES ALREADY.
AND I FEEL LIKE AT THIS POINT IT'S A WASTE OF TIME FOR BOTH OF US, DON'T YOU THINK?
I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU HAD THE LATEST FLYER.
sing since 09.29.86
GREAT, YES, THANK YOU. YOU CAN GO NOW.
AND I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU HAD ANY NEW LEADS.
Christ, lady, ENOUGH ALREADY!
No, OKAY? NO NEW LEADS!
WE'LL LET YOU KNOW IF WE HEAR ANYTHING.
NOW GO BUG SOME OTHER PRECINCT!
I HAVE, CAPTAIN. I'VE MADE MY WAY TO ALL ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVEN PRECINCTS. I VISIT TWO A WEEK, SOMETIMES THREE.
IT TAKES ABOUT A YEAR AND THEN I START ALL OVER AGAIN.
EVERY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE HAS MY CONTACT INFO AND THEY CALL ME IN FOR ANY JOHN DOE THAT EVEN REMOTELY LOOKS LIKE A MATCH FOR MY BROTHER.
AND IT HASN'T BEEN A DOZEN TIMES THAT WE'VE TALKED. ONLY EIGHT.

HERE'S MY CARD IN CASE YOU THREW ALL THE OTHERS AWAY.
JUST BECAUSE YOU ALL GAVE UP ON FINDING HIM DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO.
LISTEN, ma'am, EVERY DAY WE GET DOZENS OF MISSING PERSON REPORTS, AND MOST POP UP WITHIN A DAY. BUT ONE OR TWO...
...THEY JUST GET SWALLOWED UP BY THE CITY.
SOMEBODY OUT THERE KNOWS SOMETHING.
Goddamn this city.
Goddamn the grind.
FLICK
HEY! CAN'T SMOKE IN HERE.
Goddamn whoever took my brother and brought me here.
EXIT

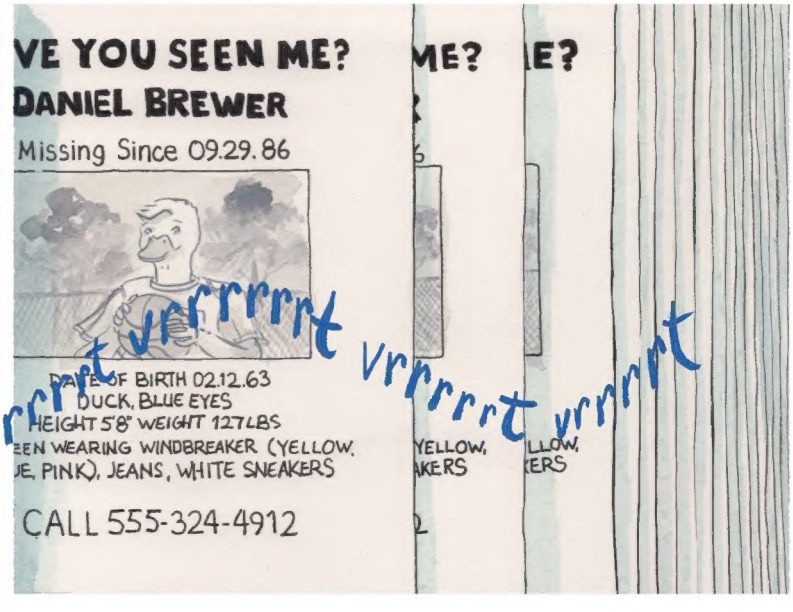
Eight years—
—*eight years* since I came here after Danny stopped answering his phone and returning calls.
Eight years since he fell off the face of the planet.

Now I've lived here longer than almost anywhere else, and I've *hated every minute* of it.
Ka-plink

BRING COUNTER FOR PAYMENT
When I realized I was staying longer than a couple weeks I picked up a shitty apartment and applied for a job at a copy shop to cover rent…

…now I'm *manager*…
Black & White

…and I make as many copies as I want for free.
vrrrrrt


VE YOU SEEN ME?
DANIEL BREWER
Missing Since 09.29.86
DATE OF BIRTH 02.12.63
DUCK, BLUE EYES
HEIGHT 5'8" WEIGHT 127LBS
EEN WEARING WINDBREAKER (YELLOW,
JE, PINK), JEANS, WHITE SNEAKERS
CALL 555-324-4912
vrrrrrt
vrrrrrt
vrrrrrt

Eight years with my life on *pause*, and all the months blurred together.
HAVE YOU SE
DANIEL BR
MISSING SIN
DATE OF BIR
DUCK, BL
HEIGHT 5'8" W
LAST SEEN WEARING W
BLUE, PINK), JEA
CALL 555-3
Eating simple...
...just to kill the grumble in my stomach...
...and lots of smokes to kill the time...
THE ICE BOX
Cold Case Internet Sleuths
atest Posts
MI- ERIC MITCHELL, 35, MURDERED
Found October 16, 1987 in wooded area outside Dearborn. Last
lead found in 1990 following shooting...
POSTED 9/02 - Anwark
KY- ANDREA CRENSHAW, 51, MISSING
Last seen on July 22, 1985 in Independence. Fur
may be dyed red.
POSTED 4/02 DavN
JK- FAMILY OF 5, MURDERED
Following the discovery of the victims' bodies just
after winter solstice of 1977, virtually no...
POSTED 3/31 - Kenz
...while I poke around the dark corners of the internet.
ET- STUART CHEN
Last seen riding bi
Norwich on September 16, 1990.
POSTED 3/29 - Stoopes
CLICK
Sometimes it just seems like a catalogue of how horrible we all can be.

I'm *not* a *fool*.

I refuse to let myself hope that he'll just pop up out of the blue.

I just want *closure*.

15

9

These message boards are about the only things that give me hope.

Maybe one of you knows something or knows someone who knows something...

CLICKITY CLACKITY

...that can help me find his body...

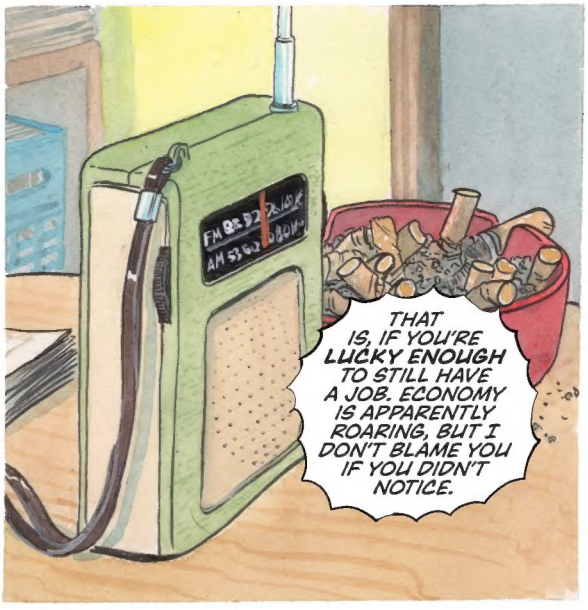
pop up out of the blue. I just want closure. These message boards are about the only things that give me hope. Maybe one of you out there saw something or knows someone who knows something that can help me find his body and find the son of a bitch that took my brother away from me.

MBrewer60

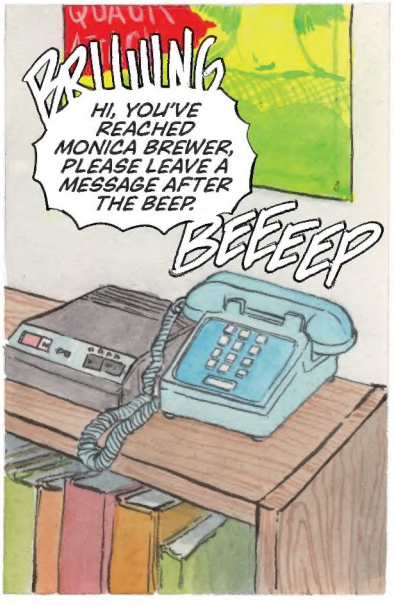
POST

CLICK

RISE AND SHINE! YOU'RE LISTENING TO THE MORNING RUSH WITH THE EARLY BIRD, AND THE BIRD IS THE WORD!
DON'T YOU DARE HIT SNOOZE AGAIN. TIME TO GET UP AND DRAG YOUR BUTT TO WORK!


THAT IS, IF YOU'RE LUCKY ENOUGH TO STILL HAVE A JOB. ECONOMY IS APPARENTLY ROARING, BUT I DON'T BLAME YOU IF YOU DIDN'T NOTICE.

ALL THESE FACTORIES GOING OVERSEAS, THERE'S NOT A LOT TO DO EXCEPT BUY WHAT THEY'RE MAKING. BUT WITH WHAT MONEY?!


RRIIIING
HI, YOU'VE REACHED MONICA BREWER, PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP.
BEEEEP

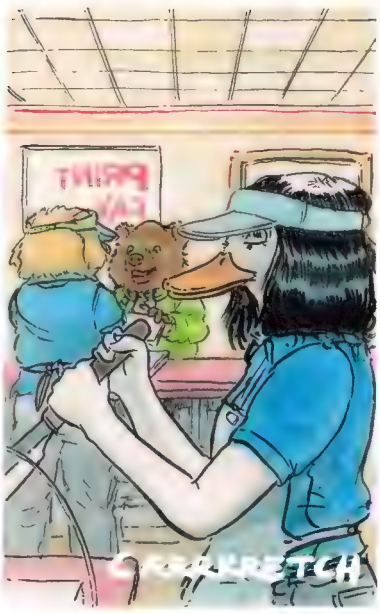
HEY, MONICA, IT'S GEORGE. I KNOW YOU'RE JUST SITTING THERE LISTENING TO THIS... PICK UP.

OKAY, OKAY. I'M GOING TO BUG YOU ABOUT THIS AT WORK ANYWAY...
QUACK ATTACK!

...BUT WE'RE ALL GOING TO KARAOKE FOR TINA'S BIRTHDAY.
YOU GOTTA COME OUT THIS TIME!
23

SCCCKRRNCH

VRRRRT
VRRRRT


PRINT
FAX

Routine gets you almost all the way through every day, but it's never quite enough.

Routine...
...nicotine.
FLICK

You still need a little something *extra*.
Something to hang your hat on.

HEY, WHAT'S UP? MIND IF I BURN ONE?

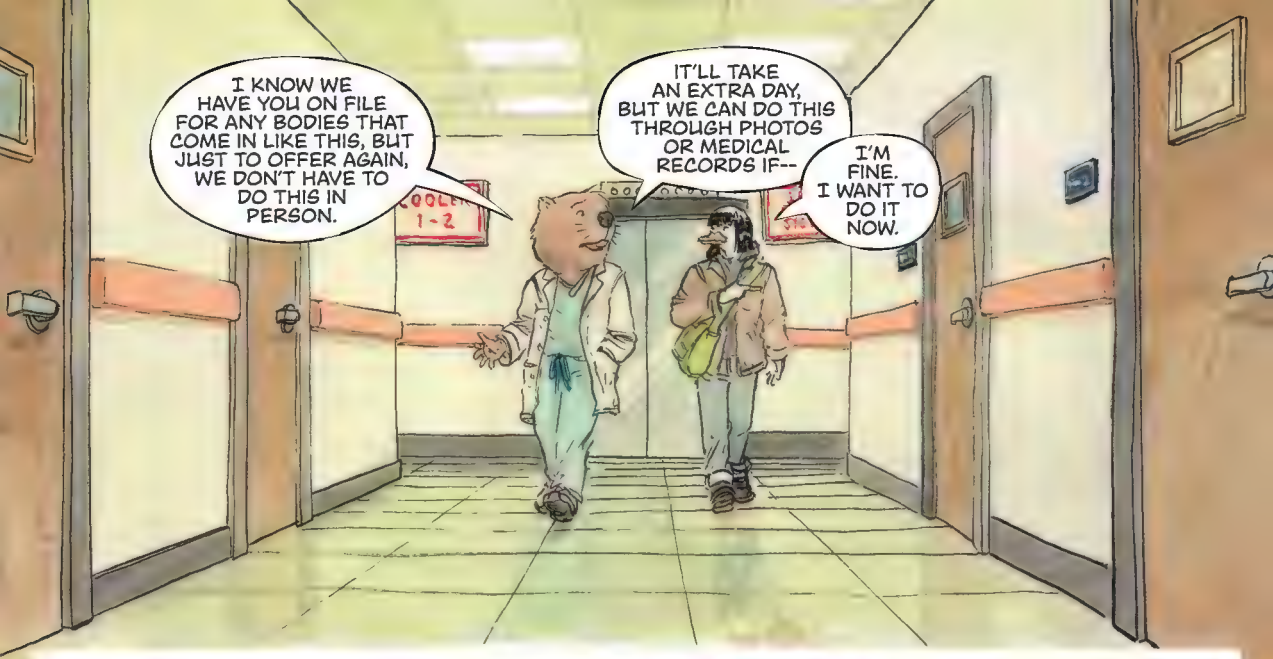
IN CASE YOU REALLY DIDN'T GET MY MESSAGE...
FAKE

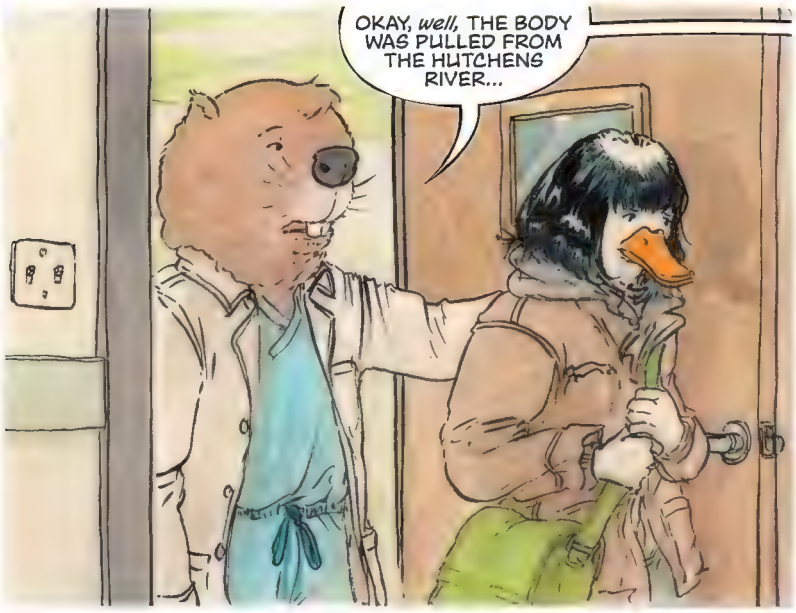
...WE'RE ALL DOING KARAOKE TOMORROW...

... BUT I'M SURE YOU ALREADY HAVE BIG PLANS.

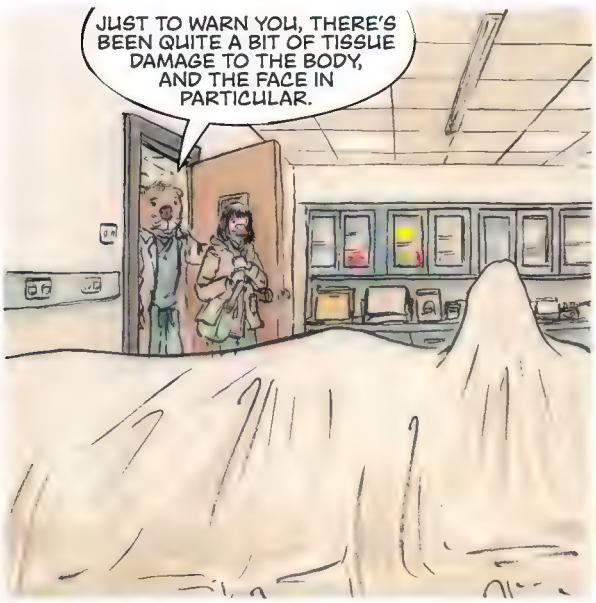
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT LOOKING FOR NEW FRIENDS...
...BUT WE'D LOVE TO HANG OUT.
I DON'T HAVE PLANS.
I JUST DON'T WANT TO GO.
Friends are too much...
...you make friends, you make plans, and then you lose sight of the whole reason you moved here.
YOU WANT A WARM-UP?
SURE, I'M JUST GONNA MAKE A CALL.
HI, YOU'VE REACHED MONICA BREWER, PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE--
beep
boop
THIS IS A MESSAGE FOR MONICA BREWER. THIS IS THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER, PARKWAY DIVISION.
WE HAVE YOU ON FILE TO BE NOTIFIED FOR IDENTIFYING ANY JOHN DOE MATCHING THE DESCRIPTION OF AN ADULT MALE WHITE DUCK. PLEASE CALL US BACK AT--

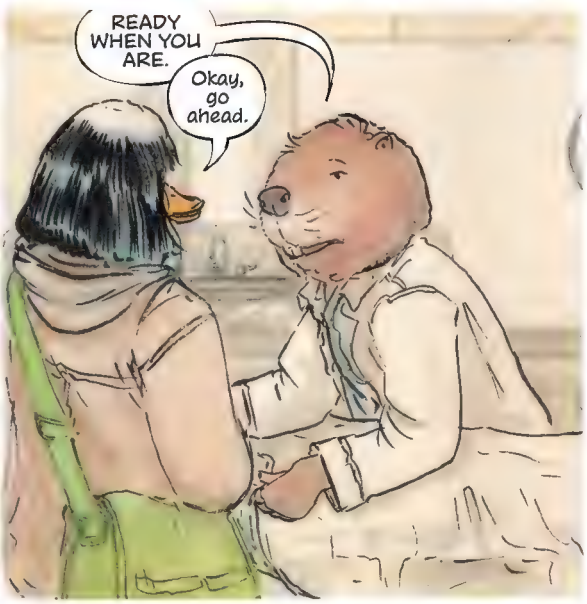
KEEP THE CHANGE!
You need to temper yourself for good news almost as much as for bad news.
Hope keeps the engines running.
SPLASH
But *too much* hope can tear it all apart.
YES?
I, *uh*...
...I'M HERE TO IDENTIFY A BODY.


I KNOW WE HAVE YOU ON FILE FOR ANY BODIES THAT COME IN LIKE THIS, BUT JUST TO OFFER AGAIN, WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS IN PERSON.
IT'LL TAKE AN EXTRA DAY, BUT WE CAN DO THIS THROUGH PHOTOS OR MEDICAL RECORDS IF--
I'M FINE. I WANT TO DO IT NOW.
COOLER 1-2


OKAY, *well*, THE BODY WAS PULLED FROM THE HUTCHENS RIVER...

...AND HAD MOST LIKELY BEEN IN THERE FOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BASED ON THE DECOMPOSITION.

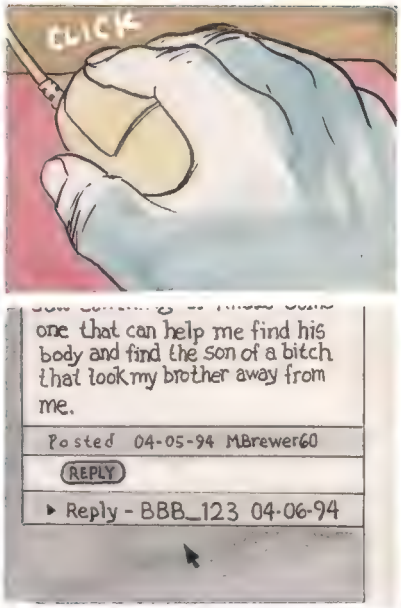

JUST TO WARN YOU, THERE'S BEEN QUITE A BIT OF TISSUE DAMAGE TO THE BODY, AND THE FACE IN PARTICULAR.

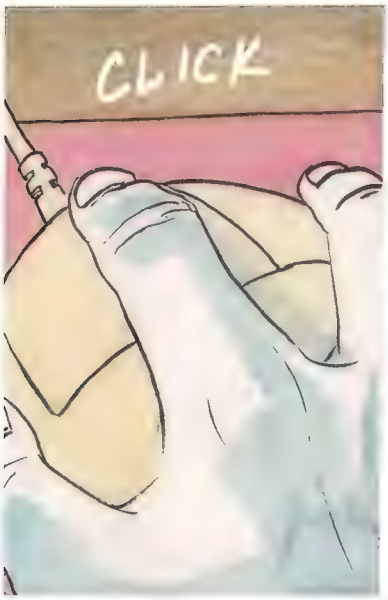

READY WHEN YOU ARE.
Okay, go ahead.

...
TAKE AS MUCH TIME AS YOU NEED.
IT'S ALWAYS A SHOCK TO SEE AT FIRST AND IF YOU DO WANT TO USE MEDICAL RECORDS...
No. It's...
...IT'S NOT HIM. I'M POSITIVE.
And I immediately feel like a fool.
ka-plink
Ashamed that I could be so naive.
As if I'd ever find him.
As if this city would ever give him up.

How much longer do I do this?
How much more of myself do I give?
I'm getting old.
orough East
L M R
CLOMP CLIP CLOMP
CLOMP CLIP CLOMP
Oh, HEY, CATHY? IS THAT YOU?
CATHY! HEY, IT'S ME!

NOW!
DO IT!
HHRKK
SWOOP
CLICK
CLICK
CLACK
F'NOK
GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE!
?
COME BACK AND I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU!


CLICK
one that can help me find his body and find the son of a bitch that took my brother away from me.
Posted 04-05-94 MBrewer60
REPLY
▸ Reply - BBB_123 04-06-94



hope. Maybe one of you out there saw something or knows someone that can help me find his body and find the son of a bitch that took my brother away from me.

Posted 04-05-94 MBrewer60

REPLY

▾ Reply - BBB_123 04-06-94

If you want to find your brother you should have a look in Woodbrook, VT.

REPLY

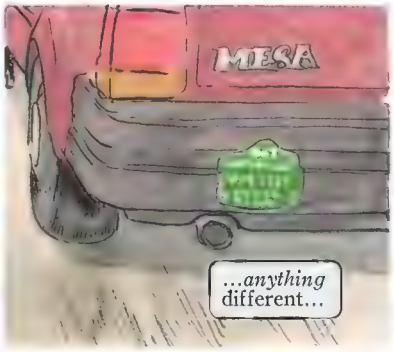
DRI GUARD
C. ATENA
G. CABRERA
S. TEAGUE
A. MILNE
GEORGE! I NEED YOU TO COVER FOR ME AT WORK FOR THE NEXT COUPLE DAYS!
AND I NEED TO BORROW YOUR CAR!
WHAT?!
CH-WUT-WUT-VROOM

It's hard to believe in anything...
90
Hollis
202
608
22
31
Woodbrook
31
22
90
26
Chelsea
Demsey
112
Jct. City

...but finally having a lead that comes from someone else...

...it's *different*, at the very least.

And after eight years...


MESA
...*anything* different...

...is a minor *miracle.*

WOODBROOK COUNTY

HIYA, SAMANTHA. IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY TODAY.
IT SURE IS, STEWIE.
S. POST

SO, A WHITE MALE DUCK...
...GOES MISSING ABOUT EIGHT YEARS AGO...
...AND YOU'RE CHECKING TO SEE IF WE HAVE ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE A MATCH?
AND WHAT EXACTLY MADE YOU THINK HE MIGHT HAVE ENDED UP *HERE* IN *WOOD-BROOK*?
Uh, THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANY TRACE OF HIM IN THE CITY...
...I FIGURED I MIGHT AS WELL START LOOKING AROUND THE SMALL TOWNS NEARBY.
WELL, AS IT SO HAPPENS WE HAD SOME RATHER UNPLEASANT BUSINESS THAT HIT THIS TOWN LIKE A WRECKING BALL SOME YEARS BACK.
I *MIGHT* HAVE SOME-THING FOR YOU TO TAKE A LOOK AT.
G. PATTERSON

AS IT TURNS OUT, ONE OF OUR LOCAL RESIDENTS BEGAN *MURDERING* FOLKS IN OUR COMMUNITY HERE.
WELL, MOST OF THEM WERE FROM HERE. THIS VICTIM WAS THE *ONLY ONE* WE COULDN'T IDENTIFY.
A WHITE DUCK, COULD VERY WELL HAVE BEEN MALE.
Th--
THIS IS DANNY'S!
MA'AM, I CAN APPRECIATE YOUR EAGERNESS TO JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS...
...BUT WE'LL NEED MORE THAN A *JACKET* TO IDENTIFY HIM.
I HAVE EVERYTHING HERE, HIS DENTAL, HIS MEDICAL--
THAT'S JUST IT, THOUGH, MA'AM...
...THIS VICTIM HAD BEEN *BURIED,* BUT ONLY A FEW PIECES HAVE BEEN FOUND, AND NONE OF IT IS CONCLUSIVE.
THEN WE CAN GO SEARCH FOR THE REST OF HIM.
ALL DUE RESPECT, WE'RE POTENTIALLY TALKING ABOUT *THOUSANDS* OF ACRES OF FOREST.
WE JUST DON'T HAVE THE BUDGET FOR SOMETHING THAT SIZE.
THEN, *goddammit,* I'LL FIND HIM MYSELF.
Ma'am?

Wouldn't want you to try too hard, you droopy-eyed son of a--

HEY.

AH!

JESUS, WHAT THE *FUCK* ARE YOU DOING IN MY CAR?!

I'M SO SORRY TO DO THIS. MY NAME'S SAMANTHA STRONG.

OUR SHERIFF IS ABOUT AS WORTHLESS AS THEY COME, AND I WANTED TO CUT TO THE CHASE...

...IS IT YOUR *BROTHER?*

...

IT WAS *ME.* I SENT YOU THE MESSAGE TO COME TO WOODBROOK.

IT MIGHT BE HIM...

...BUT I NEED TO FIND WHERE THE REST OF HIM IS BURIED.

HOW THE *HELL* DID YOU FIGURE THIS OUT?

AS SOON AS I FOUND YOUR POSTS IT ALL CAME TOGETHER. AND I THINK I MIGHT KNOW WHERE WE CAN LOOK NEXT.

I HAVE TO ASK, THOUGH-- WHAT ALL ARE YOU WILLING TO DO?

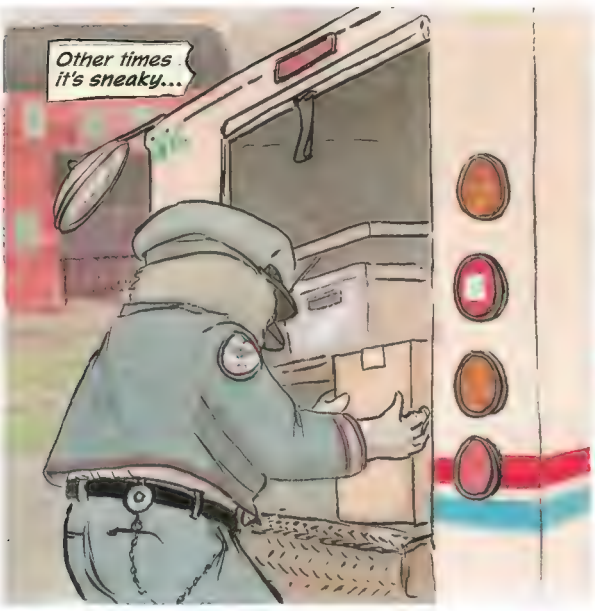
TO FIND MY BROTHER?

I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES.

Two

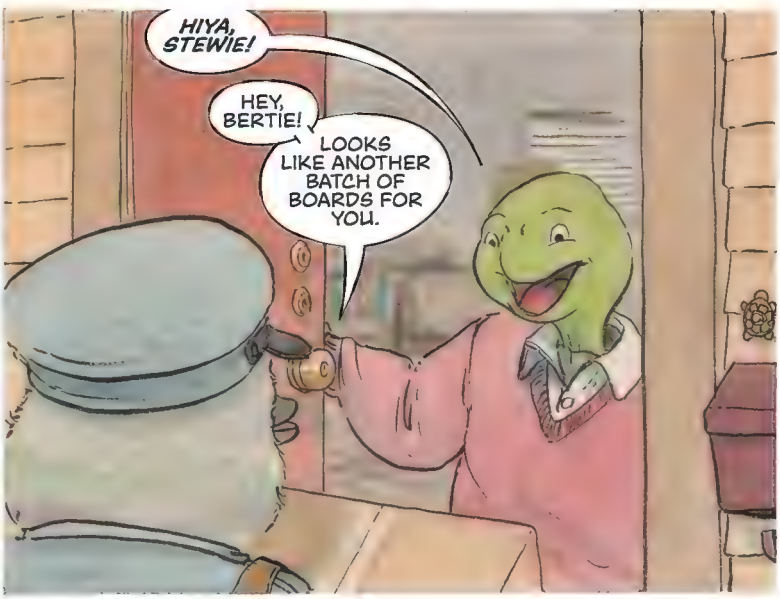
Every new cycle seems fresh and old at the same time.
We've been here before.
We know what to expect.
But there's always change...
...evolution...
SHUNK
...and there's no going back.

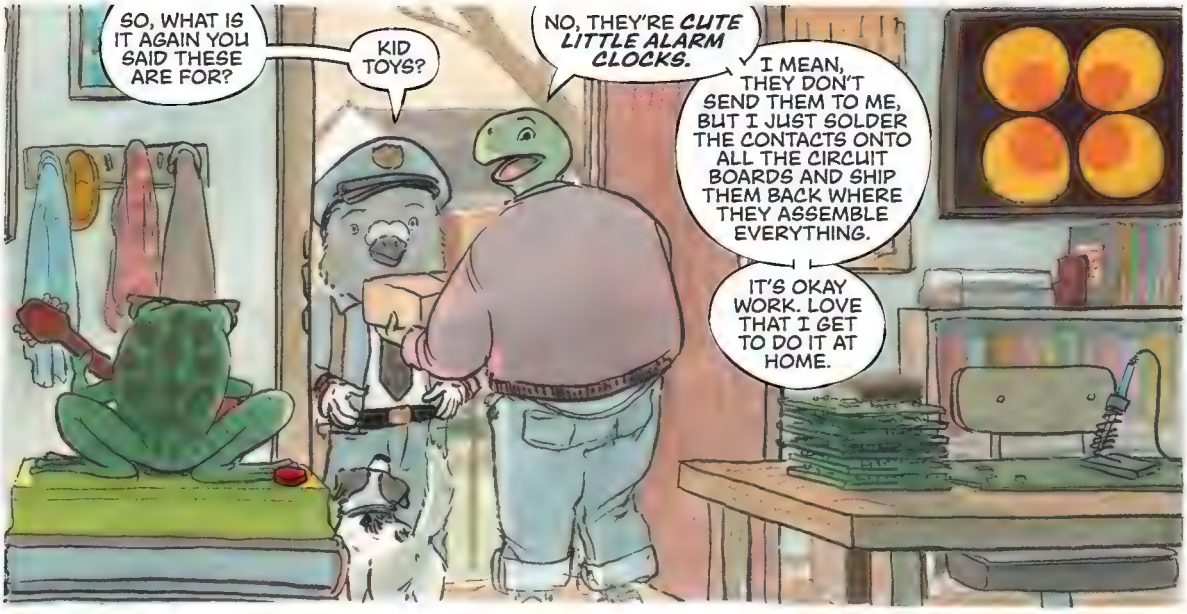
Sometimes it's obvious...
COMING SOON
BIG DEAL
SUPER STORE
GAS
...and you can see it coming from a mile away.

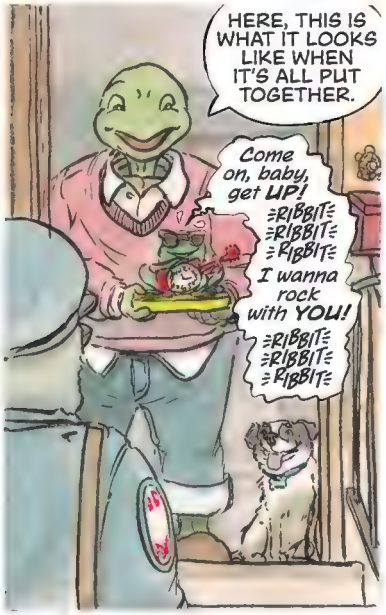

Other times it's sneaky...

...slowly twisting the world...

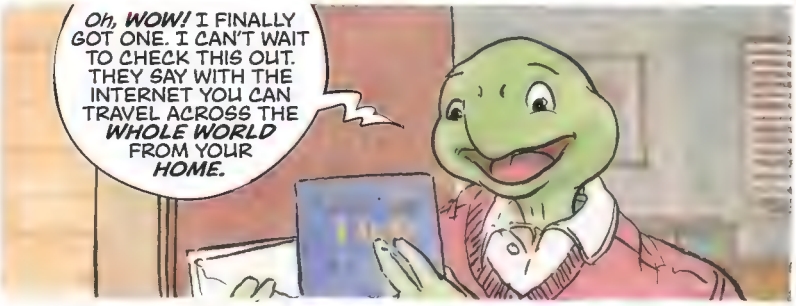
...until it's upside down.


HIYA, STEWIE!
HEY, BERTIE!
LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER BATCH OF BOARDS FOR YOU.


SO, WHAT IS IT AGAIN YOU SAID THESE ARE FOR?
KID TOYS?
NO, THEY'RE CUTE LITTLE ALARM CLOCKS.
I MEAN, THEY DON'T SEND THEM TO ME, BUT I JUST SOLDER THE CONTACTS ONTO ALL THE CIRCUIT BOARDS AND SHIP THEM BACK WHERE THEY ASSEMBLE EVERYTHING.
IT'S OKAY WORK. LOVE THAT I GET TO DO IT AT HOME.


HERE, THIS IS WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE WHEN IT'S ALL PUT TOGETHER.
Come on, baby, get UP!
=RIBBIT=
=RIBBIT=
=RIBBIT=
I wanna rock with YOU!
=RIBBIT=
=RIBBIT=
=RIBBIT=

Cute.
HERE'S THE REST OF YOUR MAIL FOR TODAY.

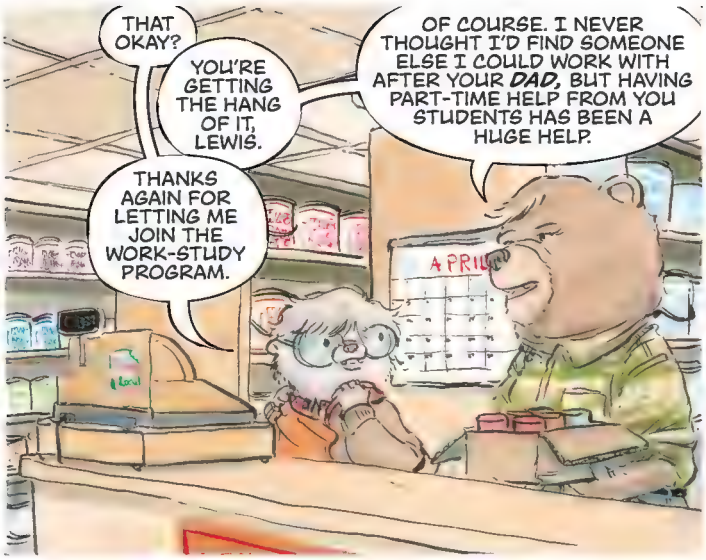

Oh, WOW! I FINALLY GOT ONE. I CAN'T WAIT TO CHECK THIS OUT. THEY SAY WITH THE INTERNET YOU CAN TRAVEL ACROSS THE WHOLE WORLD FROM YOUR HOME.

I guess.
JUST MAKE SURE YOU GET OUT OF THE HOUSE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, BERTIE.

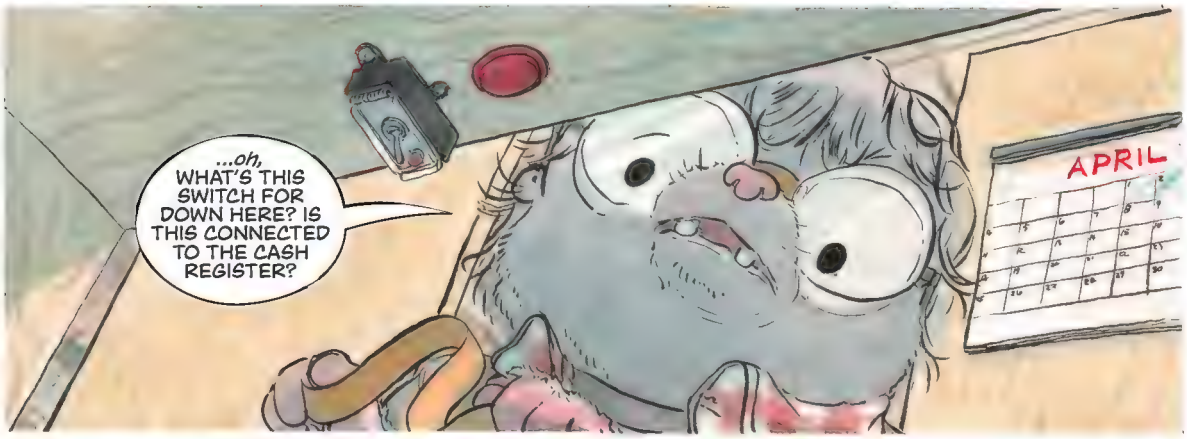
NEXT THING YOU KNOW YOUR LIFE'LL ZOOM BY AND THEN THEY'LL STICK YOU IN A SENIOR HOME LIKE THE ONE DOWN THE STREET WHERE THEY JUST FORGET ABOUT YOU.

Aw, c'mon.
I'VE GOT ANCHOVY HERE. AND BESIDES, I STILL GET DOWN TO SAM'S SHOP FOR SUPPLIES FOR ALL THE SOLDERING I DO.

THAT'LL BE A QUARTER.
IF YOU ASK ME, ALL THESE *WILD* ANIMALS COMING INTO TOWN ARE JUST LOOKING FOR FOOD HERE BECAUSE THOSE *LAND DEVELOPERS* ARE PUSHING THEM OUT OF THE WOODS.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GONNA FINISH THAT NEW BIG DEAL STORE ON THE EDGE OF TOWN AND OPEN UP THIS YEAR.
MORE ANIMALS SPOTTED AROUND TOWN, *huh?*
I'LL TELL YA, CHIP. USED TO JUST BE *PETS* I HAD TO WORRY ABOUT, BUT NOW I'VE GOTTA WATCH OUT FOR *COYOTES* AND WHO *KNOWS* WHAT.
TAKE AWAY THEIR HUNTING GROUNDS, I GUESS THEY GOTTA FIND THEIR FOOD SOMEWHERE *NEW.*
THANKS, AND COME AGAIN!
APRIL


THAT OKAY?
YOU'RE GETTING THE HANG OF IT, LEWIS.
THANKS AGAIN FOR LETTING ME JOIN THE WORK-STUDY PROGRAM.
OF COURSE. I NEVER THOUGHT I'D FIND SOMEONE ELSE I COULD WORK WITH AFTER YOUR *DAD*, BUT HAVING PART-TIME HELP FROM YOU STUDENTS HAS BEEN A HUGE HELP.
APRIL

TO BE HONEST, I STARTED DOING THIS PROGRAM WITH THE HOPES THAT *YOU'D* WANT TO BE A PART OF IT.
Almost feels like I get to be closer to my dad...


...oh, WHAT'S THIS SWITCH FOR DOWN HERE? IS THIS CONNECTED TO THE CASH REGISTER?
APRIL

NOPE, BE CAREFUL OF THAT ONE, IT'S THE SECURITY ALARM. I HAD IT INSTALLED AFTER EVERY-THING HAPPENED.
MAIL CALL!

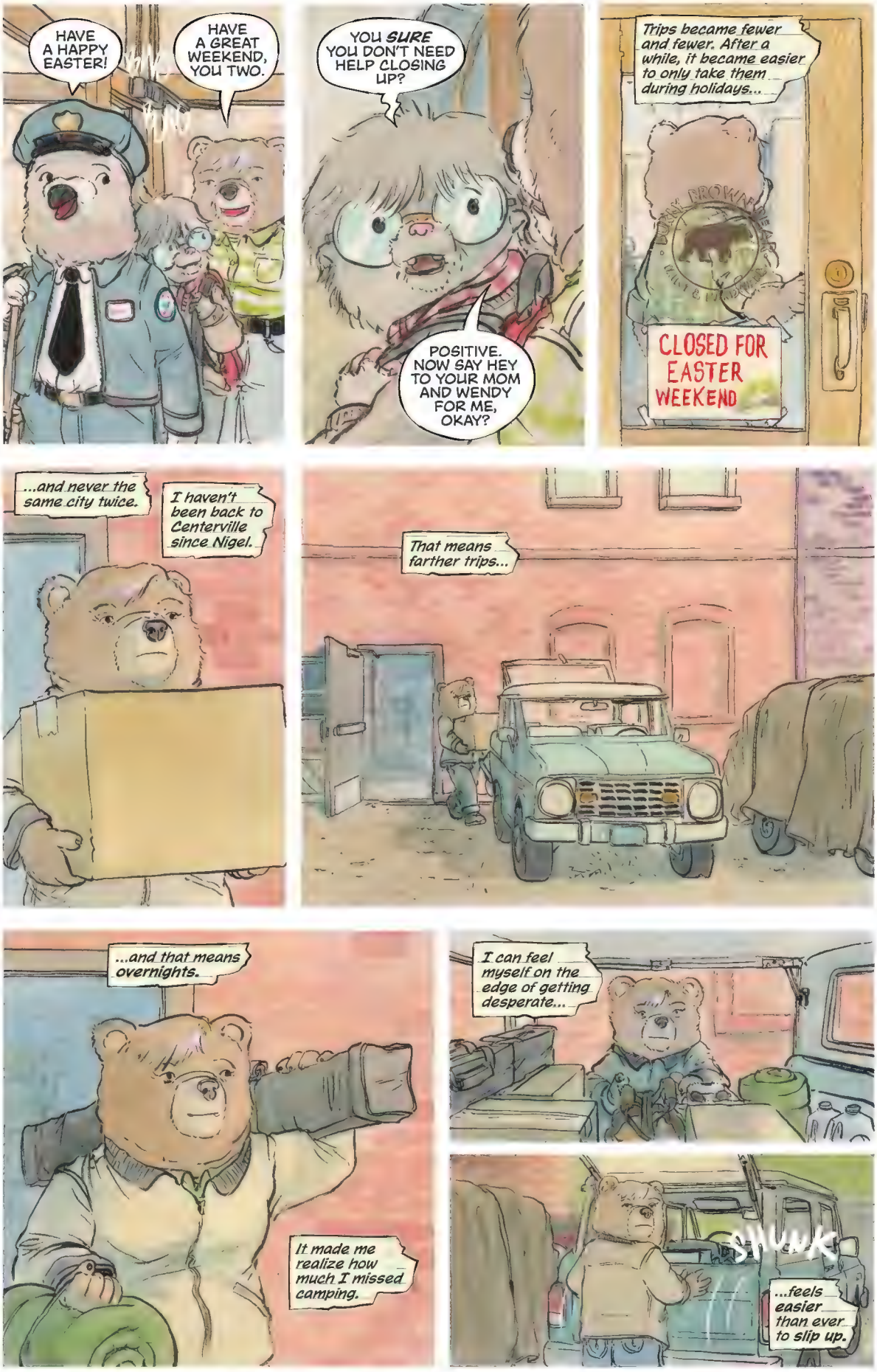
GOOD TIMING, WE WERE ABOUT TO CLOSE UP EARLY FOR THE WEEKEND.

Oh, ANOTHER POSTCARD FROM MY FOLKS DOWN IN FLORIDA.
APRIL
Florida!

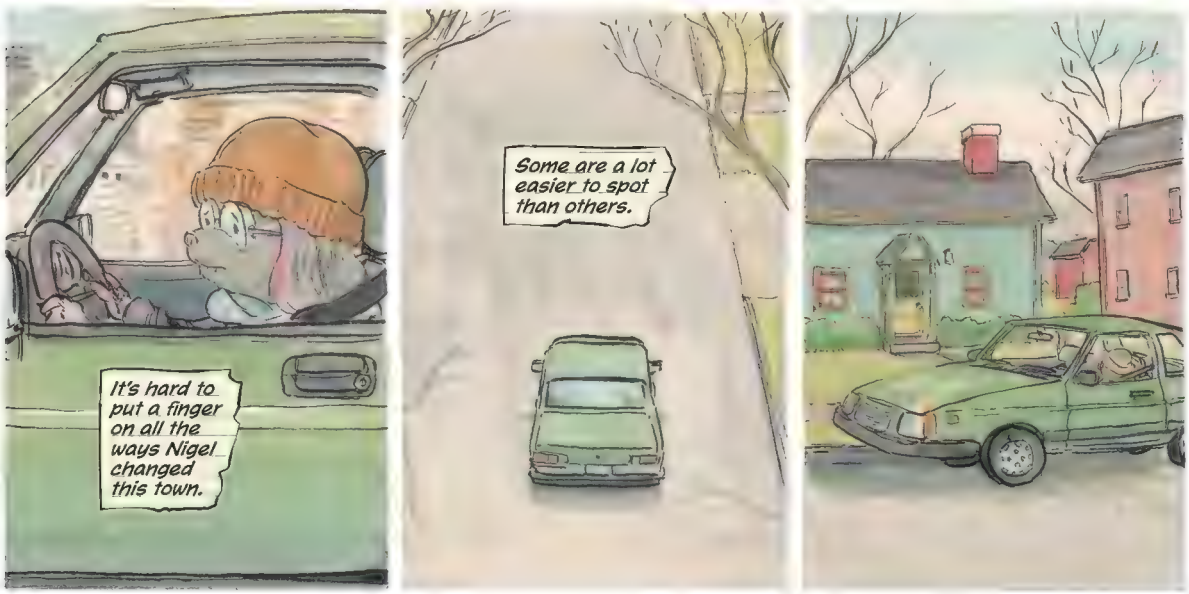
THEY'RE STILL IN FLORIDA?
BOY, I REMEMBER COMING HERE WHEN THEY WERE RUNNING THE SHOP, AND *YOU* WERE THE YOUNG ONE WORKING HERE.
HA!

THAT'S GREAT THAT YOUR FOLKS ARE STILL AROUND.
I NEED TO GET DOWN THERE FOR A VISIT SOON.

ALWAYS GREAT TO HEAR FROM FAMILY.

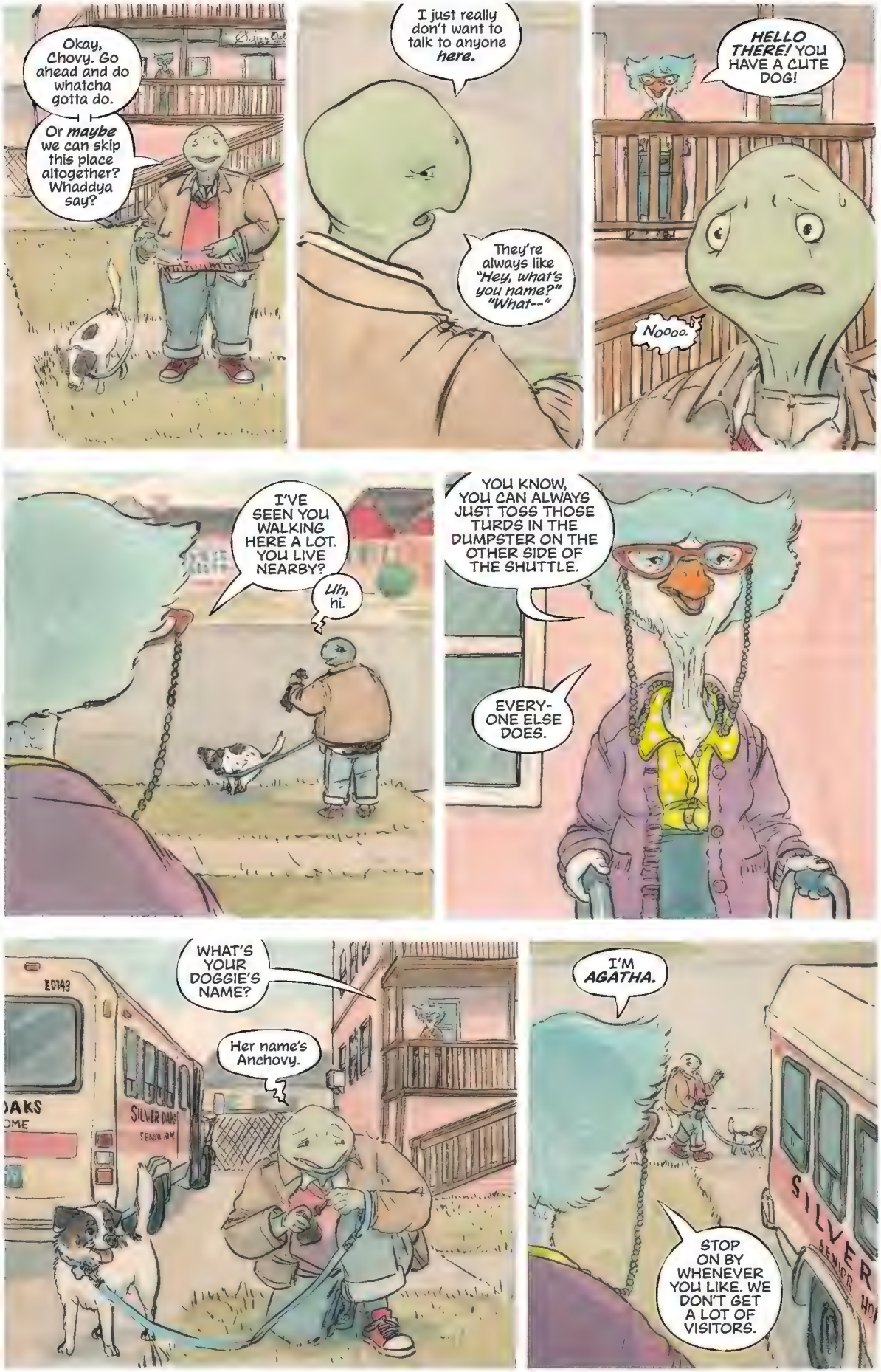

HAVE A HAPPY EASTER!
HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND, YOU TWO.
YOU SURE YOU DON'T NEED HELP CLOSING UP?
POSITIVE. NOW SAY HEY TO YOUR MOM AND WENDY FOR ME, OKAY?
Trips became fewer and fewer. After a while, it became easier to only take them during holidays...
CLOSED FOR EASTER WEEKEND
...and never the same city twice.
I haven't been back to Centerville since Nigel.
That means farther trips...
...and that means overnights.
It made me realize how much I missed camping.
I can feel myself on the edge of getting desperate...
SHUNK
...feels easier than ever to slip up.

The lows are low...
OFF
ON
START
CH-WUT-WUT-
...but the highs have been better than ever before.
VROOOOOOOOOM


It's hard to put a finger on all the ways Nigel changed this town.
Some are a lot easier to spot than others.

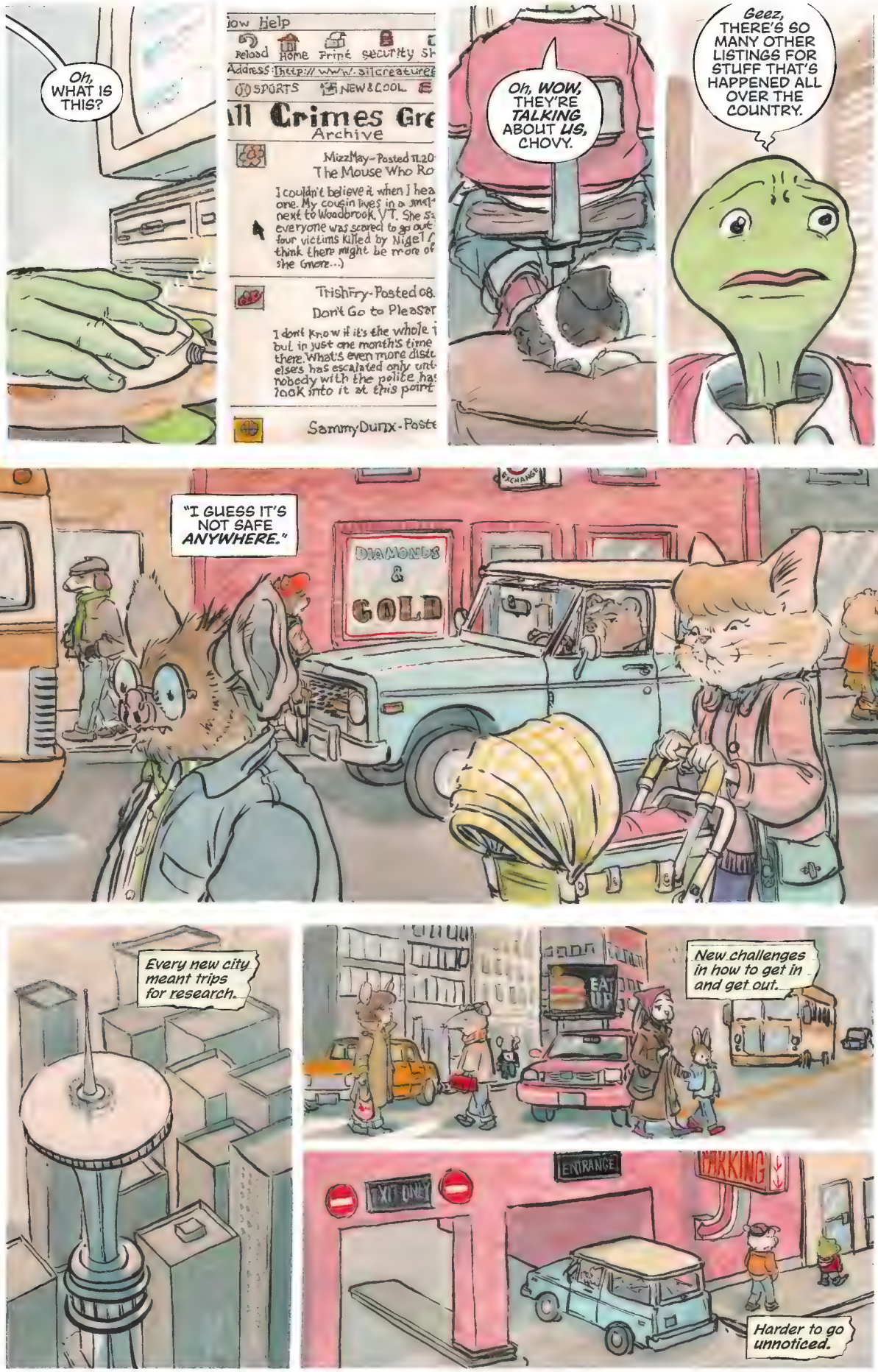
WENDY!
YOU'RE HERE! I WAS HOPING YOU COULD COME. I MADE YOU A MIX TAPE!
HEY, BUD. IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU!
IS MOM HERE?
YEAH, BUT I THINK SHE'S HAVING A BAD ONE.
She called off work again.
WENDY, THAT YOU?
I THOUGHT I HEARD YOU. I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT BACK.
Oh, I LIKE YOUR HAIR.
WE MISSED YOU A WHOLE BUNCH, HONEY.
MOM, IS IT OKAY IF ME AND WENDY DRIVE AROUND FOR A BIT?
LEWIS, SHE JUST CAME HOME. MAYBE--
BRRRING
BRRRING
Oh, HOLD ON.
HELLO?
Oh, HI, RICH. YEAH, I HAVE A MINUTE TO TALK.
IT'S OKAY, MOM, WE'LL BE BACK IN A BIT.

PAULINE, I'M JUST CALLING TO SEE IF YOU'RE FEELING GOOD ENOUGH TO WORK YOUR SHIFT TOMORROW.
Oh...
...I-- YEAH, I'LL BE IN TOMORROW.
GREAT. Uh, Pauline... I don't know what you're going through, but if you call off any more I'll have to let you go.
Rx GROVES
"NOW SHE CALLS 'EM CLOUD PILLS."
FOR A WHILE SHE WAS DOING PRETTY GOOD, BUT I THINK SHE RELAPSED HARD.
Can I have a puff on your smoke?
No.
AND MOM'S A MESS. WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING.
HIDE YOUR SMOKE, THERE'S BERTIE.
Silver Oaks

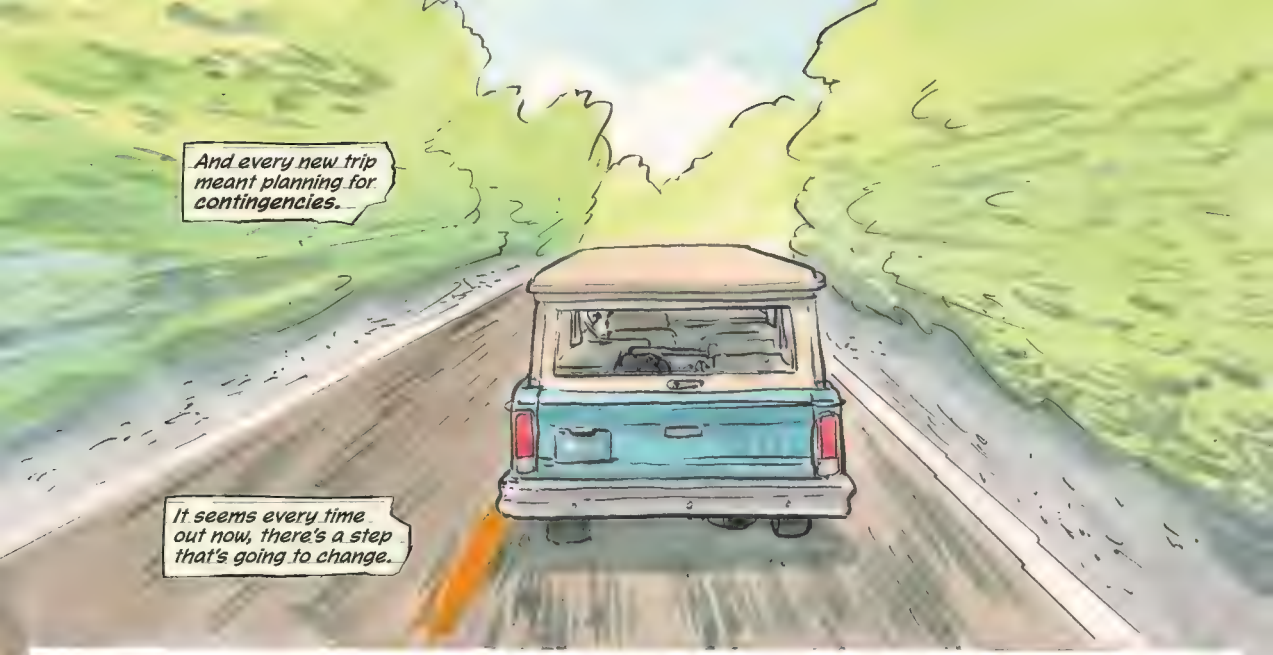

Okay, Chovy. Go ahead and do whatcha gotta do.
Or *maybe* we can skip this place altogether? Whaddya say?
I just really don't want to talk to anyone *here.*
They're always like "Hey, what's you name?" "What--"
HELLO THERE! YOU HAVE A CUTE DOG!
Noooo.
I'VE SEEN YOU WALKING HERE A LOT. YOU LIVE NEARBY?
Uh, hi.
YOU KNOW, YOU CAN ALWAYS JUST TOSS THOSE TURDS IN THE DUMPSTER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SHUTTLE.
EVERY-ONE ELSE DOES.
WHAT'S YOUR DOGGIE'S NAME?
Her name's Anchovy.
I'M AGATHA.
STOP ON BY WHENEVER YOU LIKE. WE DON'T GET A LOT OF VISITORS.

HAVE A GOOD DAY, AGATHA!
GASP!
HUFF
ARF! ARF! ARF!
OAKS
HOME
Chovy, no!
ARF!
GET INSIDE AND LOCK HE DOORS, AGATHA!
YOU'VE GOT A BEAR!

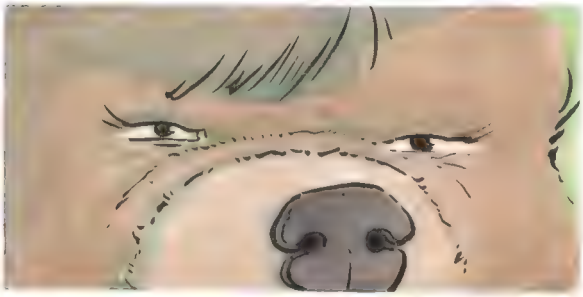
=Huff=
=Huff=
=Huff=
I--
=huff=
--didn't pull my head in--
=huff=
WHAM
I WAS TOO WORRIED ABOUT YOU, GIRL.
THAT'S ENOUGH TALKING TO STRANGERS.
FWOOSH
I THINK I LIKE IT BEST WHEN IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US.
CHERNCH
I LIKE KEEPING THE OUTSIDE WORLD LIMITED TO JUST WHAT I GET THROUGH THIS THING.
WebLynx
dialing
Rams
Photos
Doc
MAIL CALL!
WHAT DID I GET? Oh, IT'S JUST THEM TRYING TO GET ME TO SUBSCRIBE.
HERE, LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIND ANYTHING ABOUT WOODBROOK.
Yofer
web sear
woodbrook

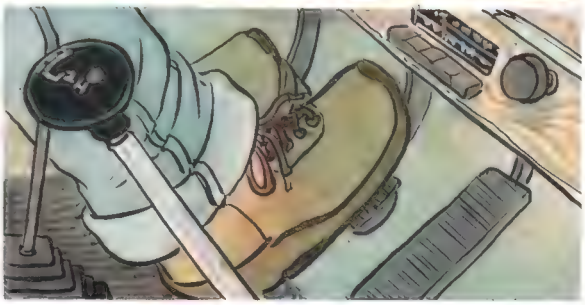

Oh, WHAT IS THIS?
Help
Reload
Home
Print
Security
Address: http://www.allcreatures
SPORTS
NEW & COOL
ll Crimes Gre
Archive
MizzMay - Posted 11.20
The Mouse Who Ro
I couldn't believe it when I hea
one. My cousin lives in a small
next to Woodbrook, VT. She s
everyone was scared to go out
four victims killed by Nigel /
think there might be more of
she (more...)
TrishFry - Posted 08.
Don't Go to Pleasar
I don't know if it's the whole i
but in just one month's time
there. What's even more distu
else's has escalated only unt
nobody with the police has
look into it at this point
SammyDunx - Poste
Oh, WOW, THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT US, CHOVY.
Geez, THERE'S SO MANY OTHER LISTINGS FOR STUFF THAT'S HAPPENED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
"I GUESS IT'S NOT SAFE ANYWHERE."
DIAMONDS & GOLD
Every new city meant trips for research.
EAT UP
New challenges in how to get in and get out.
EXIT ONLY
ENTRANCE
PARKING
Harder to go unnoticed.

Had to find holes big enough for a person to fall in.
EXIT
CLUNK
STAIRS
Hrrrrggh--
=Huff=
YOU WANT A HAND WITH THAT?
Nah, I THINK I CAN MANAGE.
IT'S NO BIGGIE. HERE...
Jeeez, what's in this thing?
AN AIR COMPRESSOR.
EXIT


And every new trip meant planning for contingencies.
It seems every time out now, there's a step that's going to change.

There's more and more noise now out in the world.





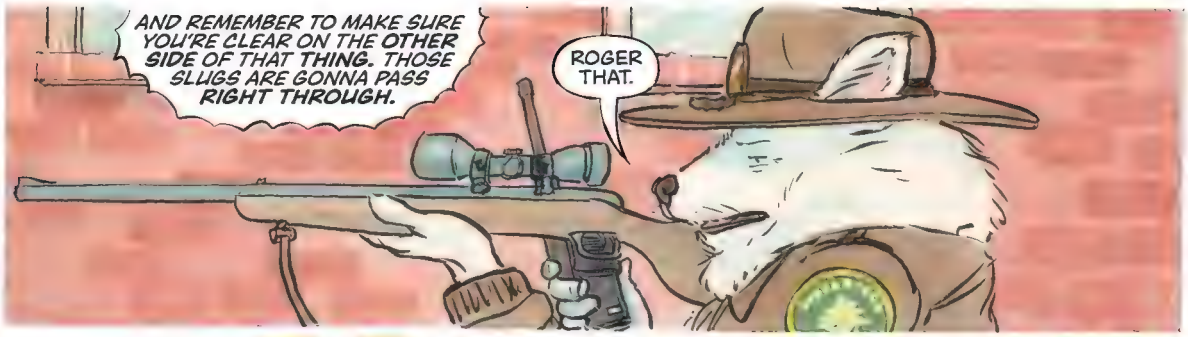
It's getting harder to find a quiet place to focus.
COMING SOON
BIG DOG

90
East Hereford
Thanks to all the work that this country's been moving overseas, finding a backup isn't too hard.
18
Cheetahville
134
Barnes
57

Factories have been going vacant, and it's left a lot of folks looking for a job.
But there's at least one bear that's still here...
...putting in a good day's work.
ZZZZZ

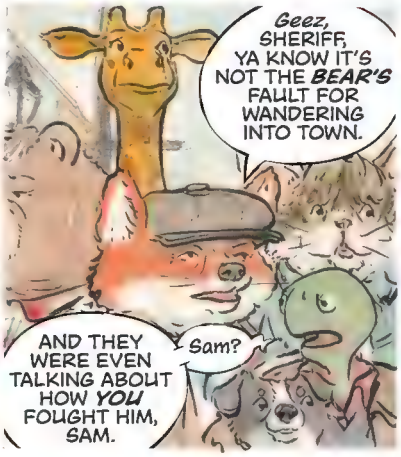
SHUNK
With every campfire my thoughts keep bending toward the past like a plant reaching for the sun.
I'm finding it harder to see what the future might look like...
...and I can't tell if it's because it's dark, or there's just nothing there.
NEWS
MORNIN', SAM. YOU HAVE A GOOD EASTER WEEKEND?
YEAH, IT WAS A NICE--
SAM! CHIP! WE'RE FAMOUS!
ON THE INTERNET! I WAS SEARCHING FOR WOODBROOK AND I FOUND A WEBSITE WHERE PEOPLE TALK ABOUT US AND THE MURDERS.
What?
AAAAGH!

BuhBuhBEAR!
WE SAW THAT ONE A COUPLE DAYS AGO RIGHT IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!
ERRRRRT
STOP
SHERMAN, SET A PERIMETER AND KEEP THOSE FOLKS *SAFE*.
WH-WHAT ARE THEY GONNA DO?
WELL, I THINK THEY'LL HAVE TO GET ANIMAL CONTROL.
NO TIME. COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL IS AT LEAST AN *HOUR* AWAY.
GIBBS, TAKE THAT *SHOT* AS SOON AS YOU'VE GOT IT.


AND REMEMBER TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE CLEAR ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT THING. THOSE SLUGS ARE GONNA PASS RIGHT THROUGH.
ROGER THAT.

BANG
WHUMP

OUTSTANDING. LOOKS LIKE THAT WAS RIGHT THROUGH THE LUNGS.
ON THAT MURDER WEBSITE, THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT NIGEL.


Geez, SHERIFF, YA KNOW IT'S NOT THE BEAR'S FAULT FOR WANDERING INTO TOWN.
AND THEY WERE EVEN TALKING ABOUT HOW YOU FOUGHT HIM, SAM.
Sam?

Oh, HEY, MISS STRONG.

Um... EVERYTHING OKAY OUT THERE?
YEAH, EVERY-THING'S OKAY, KEVIN.
A WILD BEAR WANDERED INTO TOWN...

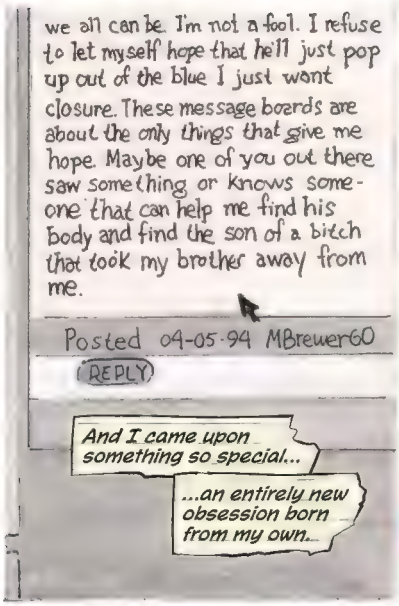
...THEY HAD TO SHOOT IT.
I'LL BE IN THE BACK FOR A BIT IF YOU NEED ME.
BIG

HEY, DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE THE INTERNET?

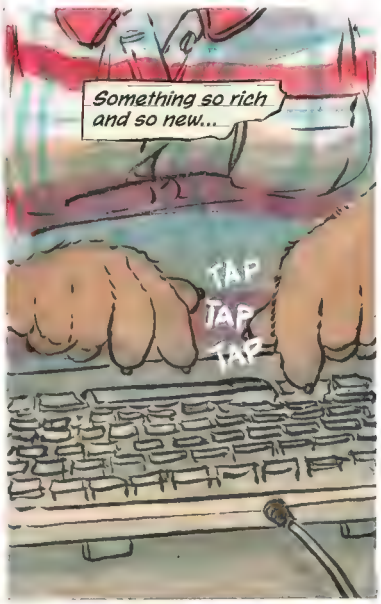
...AND THAT'S IT, IT'S PRETTY EASY. JUST REMEMBER YOU CAN'T PICK UP THE PHONE OR IT'LL BREAK YOUR CONNECTION.
THANKS, KEVIN.

It was like pulling back the floorboards to find a whole infestation of mold has been growing for years.
People looking for answers for hundreds of murders. Some that seemed familiar...

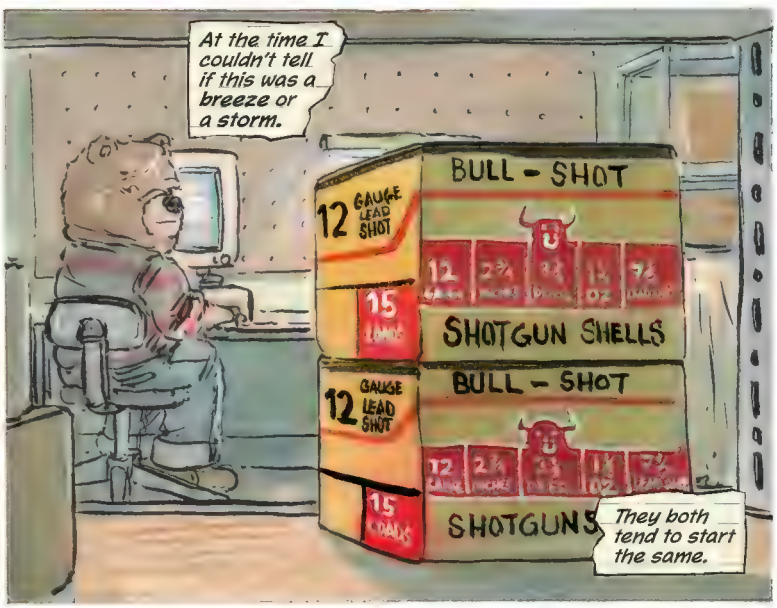
or not.
Posted 02-19-94 MBrewer60
REPLY
Some new p
...and some that I definitely knew.
The last time I saw Daniel, the Summer before he went back to school.
Posted 03-25-94 MBrewer60
REPLY
New Flyer


we all can be. I'm not a fool. I refuse to let myself hope that he'll just pop up out of the blue I just want closure. These message boards are about the only things that give me hope. Maybe one of you out there saw something or knows someone that can help me find his body and find the son of a bitch that took my brother away from me.
Posted 04-05-94 MBrewer60
REPLY
And I came upon something so special...
...an entirely new obsession born from my own.

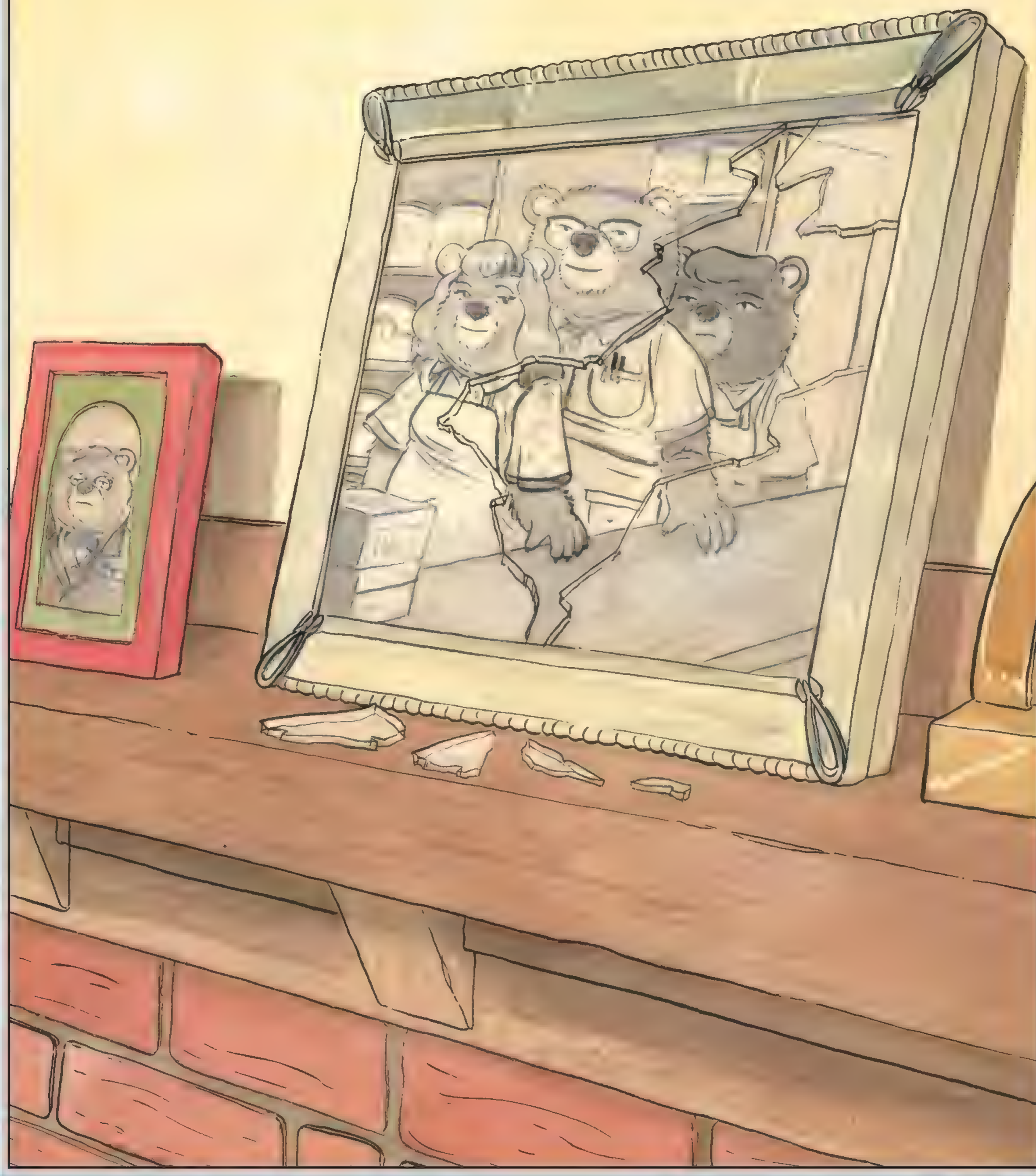
Carried for eight years.


Something so rich and so new...
TAP
TAP
TAP

one that can help me find his body and find the son of a bitch that took my brother away from me.
Posted 04-05-94 MBrewer60
Replying to MBrewer60
If you want to find your brother you should have a look in Woodbrook, VT.
POST REPLY
CLICK
BBB_123
...I had to leave a breadcrumb.


At the time I couldn't tell if this was a breeze or a storm.
BULL - SHOT
12 GAUGE LEAD SHOT
15
SHOTGUN SHELLS
BULL - SHOT
12 GAUGE LEAD SHOT
15
SHOTGUNS
They both tend to start the same.

THREE



9:29
LEXIN.
KNOCK KNOCK
Uh--
HELLO?
MONICA? IT'S ME, SAMANTHA STRONG.
I JUST WANTED TO SEE IF YOU'D GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT YESTERDAY.
YEAH, ABOUT THAT...

CROSSED MY MIND THAT YOU MIGHT BE ON THE FENCE ABOUT IT, WHICH I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND.
BUT MAYBE IF YOU JUST HEAR ME OUT, IT WON'T SEEM SO WEIRD.
13
I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR YOU TO FIND YOUR BROTHER...
...AND I WANT TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN...
BRRRR
...TO HELP YOU!
RNG
AAAGH!!
BRRRRNG

BRRRRNG
YEAH?
GOOD MORNING, MS. BREWER, THIS IS YOUR SEVEN A.M. WAKE-UP CALL.
Morning in Woodbrook.
This whole place feels *stuck*.
It's like the rest of the world is moving on—
MOTOR BROOK
—but almost nobody's noticed yet.
And I can't explain it...
...but it feels like if I don't keep moving...
BRUSH BRUSH BRUSH
...*I'm* going to get stuck here too.

THERE YOU GO. THANKS AGAIN.
SAM, YOUR GRAY IS REALLY STARTING TO SHOW. HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE IF YOU DYED YOUR FUR?
Hmmm. I HADN'T REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT THAT.
HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE IF YOU DIED?
...
HAHAHAHA!
HAVE A GOOD DAY, SUSAN.
STAY DRY OUT THERE.
Oh, IT'S JUST A LITTLE SPRING SHOWER. BESIDES, I HEARD IT'S CLEARING UP THIS AFTERNOON.

She came to Woodbrook so quickly...

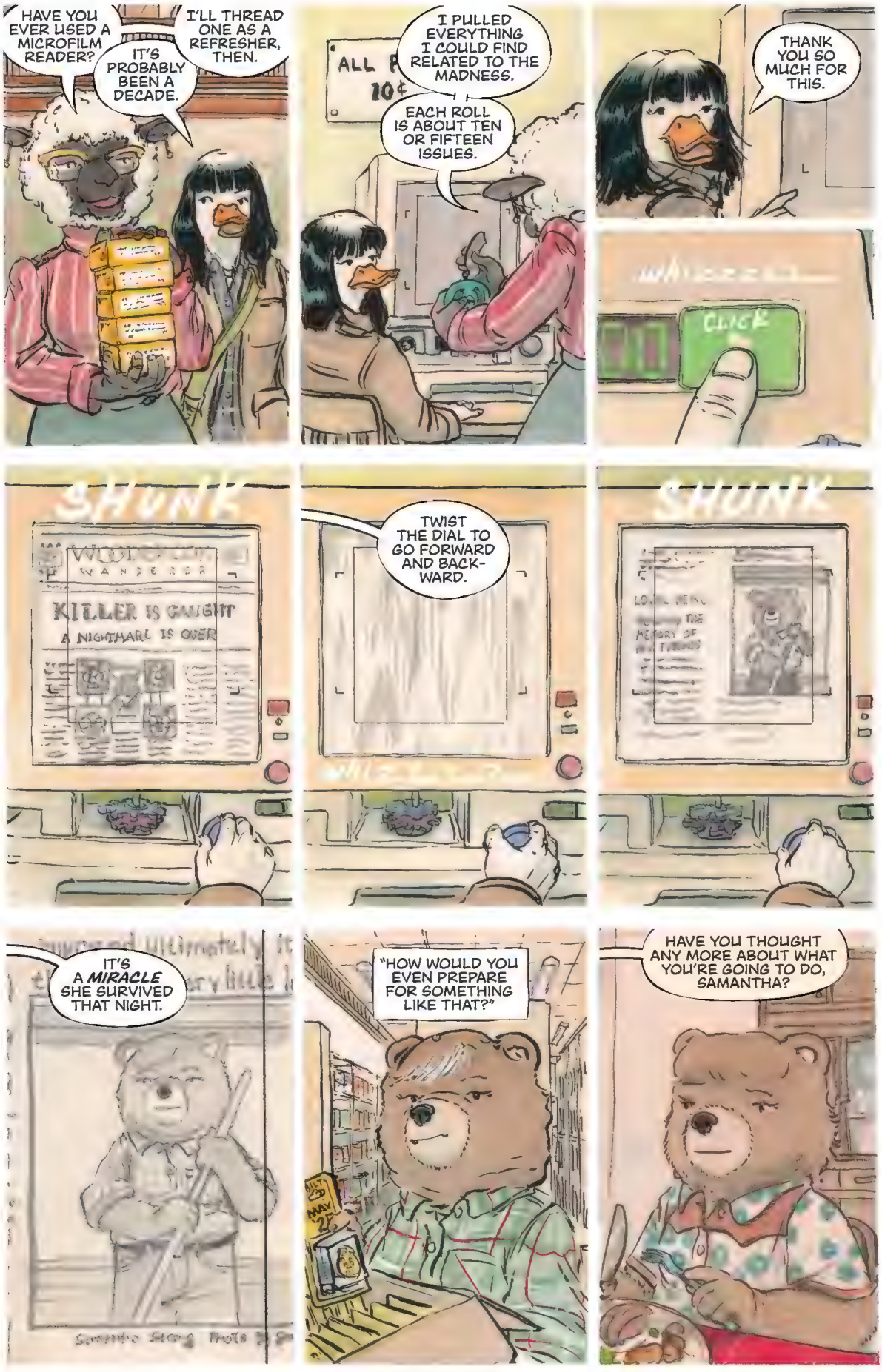
...desperate, but sharp.

Sharp enough to hesitate about what I suggested...
WOODBROOK PUBLIC LIBRARY

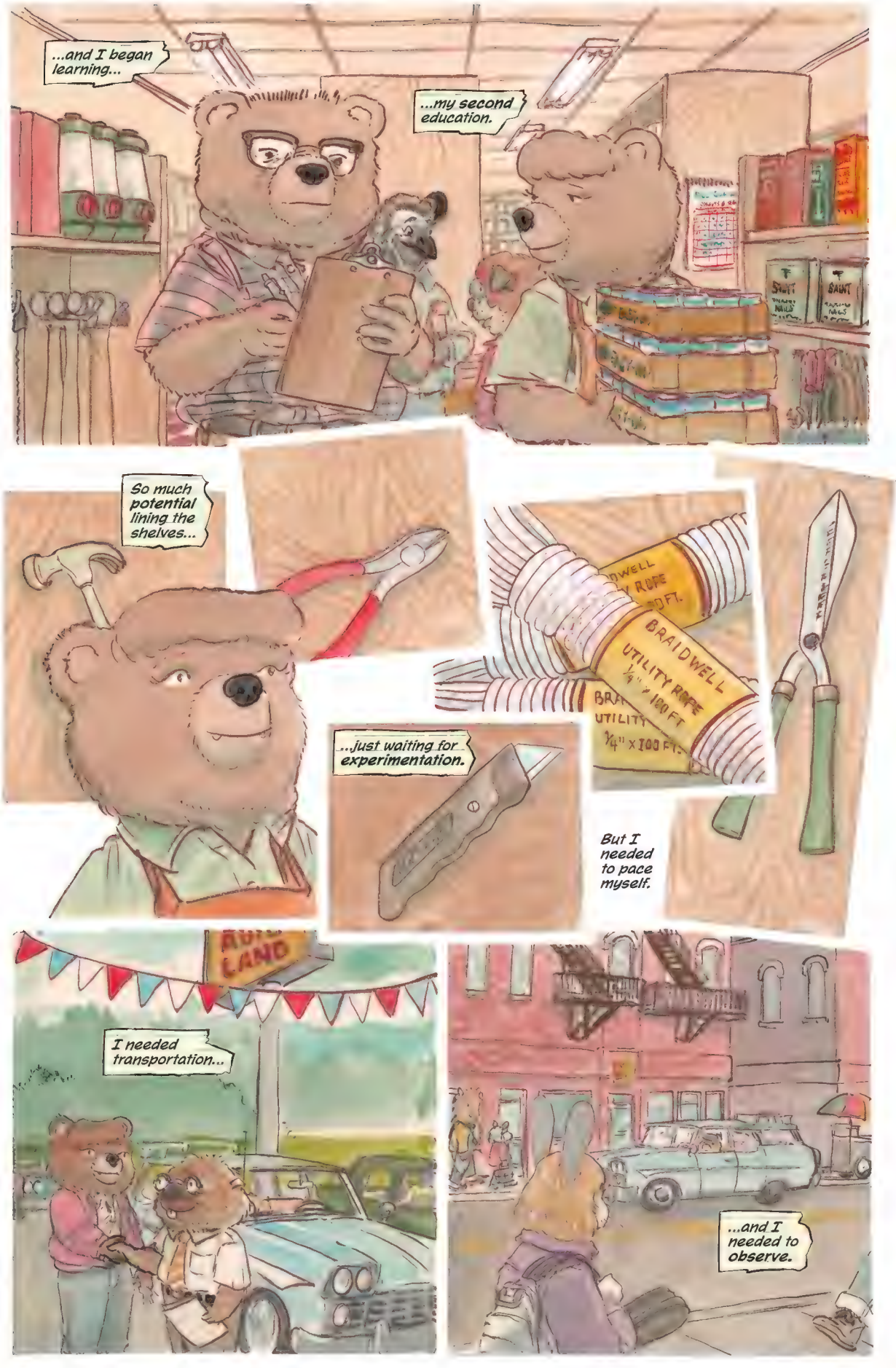
...long enough that she could dig up whatever she could about me and everything else.

HI, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP ME.
I'M LOOKING FOR ANY NEWSPAPERS FROM 1986 THAT HAVE ANYTHING ABOUT, uh--

ABOUT THE MURDERS?


HAVE YOU EVER USED A MICROFILM READER?
IT'S PROBABLY BEEN A DECADE.
I'LL THREAD ONE AS A REFRESHER, THEN.
I PULLED EVERYTHING I COULD FIND RELATED TO THE MADNESS.
EACH ROLL IS ABOUT TEN OR FIFTEEN ISSUES.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THIS.
CLICK
SHUNK
KILLER IS CAUGHT
A NIGHTMARE IS OVER
TWIST THE DIAL TO GO FORWARD AND BACK-WARD.
SHUNK
IT'S A MIRACLE SHE SURVIVED THAT NIGHT.
"HOW WOULD YOU EVEN PREPARE FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?"
HAVE YOU THOUGHT ANY MORE ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO, SAMANTHA?

YOUR MOTHER AND I ARE GLAD YOU HAD A GOOD TRIP TO *EUROPE*, BUT IT'S TIME TO BE *SERIOUS* ABOUT YOUR FUTURE.
I'VE MADE A DECISION, I *THINK*.
Oh, WONDERFUL. TELL US, DEAR.
I'VE DECIDED TO TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER. I'D LIKE TO STAY IN WOODBROOK AND WORK WITH YOU AT THE STORE.
Well, I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT, SAMANTHA.
THAT'S *WONDERFUL* NEWS, DEAR!
Oh, I CAN'T WAIT TO *TELL EVERYONE!*
AND *OF COURSE* YOU CAN STAY HERE FOR AS *LONG AS YOU LIKE*.
DON'T *CODDLE* HER, VIKI. SHE CAN GET HER OWN PLACE WHENEVER SHE WANTS.
I SEE ALL THESE KIDS ON THE NEWS THAT JUST WANT TO HITCHHIKE AROUND THE COUNTRY, *SCARED* OF DOING SOME *HARD WORK*.
I'M *PROUD* OF YOU, SAMMY.
It was time to start over...


...and I began learning...
...my second education.
So much potential lining the shelves...
...just waiting for experimentation.
But I needed to pace myself.
I needed transportation...
...and I needed to observe.

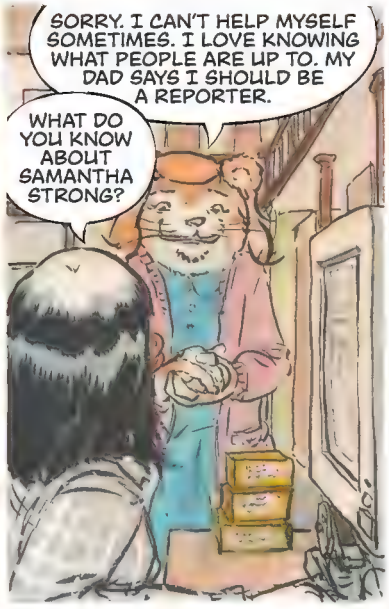
Most importantly, I needed to win the hearts and minds of Woodbrook.

If I could do that, I knew that as the years went on, I could just hide in plain sight.

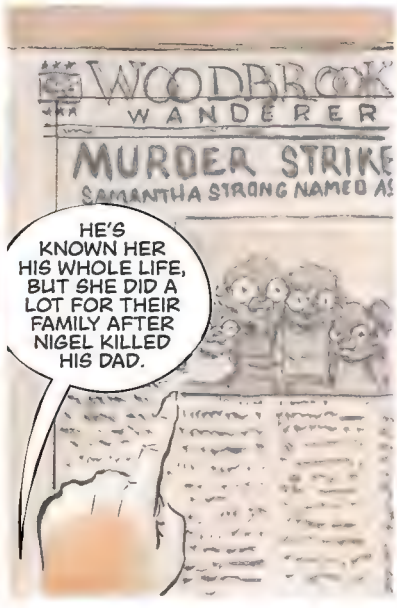
BURLY BROWN BEAR
A FAMILY AFFAIR

HEY, MIND IF I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
Oh, uh, I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD REALLY HELP WITH ANYTHING.

YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING ME FOR THE LAST HOUR.
COME HERE IF YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.


SORRY. I CAN'T HELP MYSELF SOMETIMES. I LOVE KNOWING WHAT PEOPLE ARE UP TO. MY DAD SAYS I SHOULD BE A REPORTER.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT SAMANTHA STRONG?

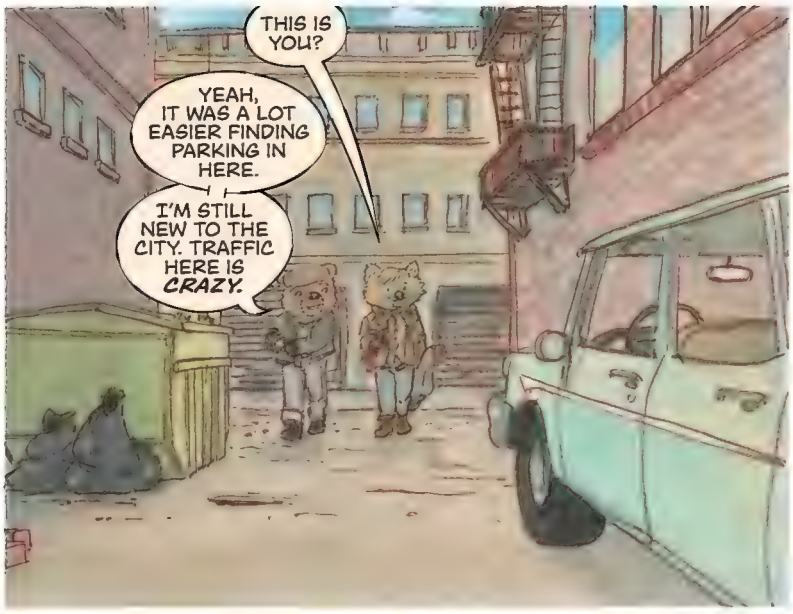
Oh, I DON'T REALLY KNOW MORE THAN MOST PEOPLE HERE, BUT IF YOU WANNA TALK TO SOMEONE, YOU SHOULD FIND LEWIS BURROW.


WOODBROOK
WANDERER
MURDER STRIKE
SAMANTHA STRONG NAMED A
HE'S KNOWN HER HIS WHOLE LIFE, BUT SHE DID A LOT FOR THEIR FAMILY AFTER NIGEL KILLED HIS DAD.

HE'S EVEN WORKING WITH HER AT HER STORE NOW AS ONE OF THE WORK-STUDY KIDS, WHICH IS A LITTLE WEIRD.
Sometimes you glance in there and it looks just like his dad.

"HE'S REALLY QUIET AND SWEET, BUT YOU CAN TELL THERE'S A LOT OF *SADNESS* BEHIND THOSE BIG OLD GLASSES."
WAX TOWN
LEWIS, MY MAN. HOW'S IT HANGIN'?
RIGHT ON.
HEY, ALFRED. I'M DOING ALL RIGHT.
ROCK · POP · R&B
ROCK
DANDEES
I'M SORRY, ARE YOU LEWIS?
Uh...
I'M NEW IN TOWN.
YEAH, I KNOW. THEY SAY YOU'RE THE ONE WHOSE BROTHER IS, *uh*--
WAIT, YOU *KNOW* WHO I AM?
It's a small town.

I GUESS SO. WELL, I HEAR YOU WORK AT THE HARDWARE STORE. I WAS JUST MAKING MY WAY OVER THERE AND--
I CAN SHOW YOU THE WAY.
I WAS JUST GOING TO BUY THIS RECORD FIRST.
Oh, THE SCREAMING CHEETAHS, NICE.
IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT ALREADY, I'D ALSO RECOMMEND MODERN BLUE. SAME GUITARIST, MAYBE A DECADE EARLIER. IT'S PRETTY INTERESTING.
IT'S STRANGE TO HAVE SUCH A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO SOMEONE THAT YOU'VE NEVER MET BEFORE.
S-SO, YOU REALLY THINK IT'S YOUR BROTHER THAT, uh, THAT THEY FOUND?
IT'S WEIRD. AT THIS POINT I'VE LIVED MY LIFE LONGER WITHOUT MY DAD THAN WHEN HE WAS ALIVE.
I GUESS IT'S ALWAYS GONNA BE THAT WAY.
DO YOU SMOKE?
BON AMI
Uh, YEAH, IT'S NO BIG DEAL THOUGH.
"LET'S HEAD DOWN THIS ALLEY."


THIS IS YOU?
YEAH, IT WAS A LOT EASIER FINDING PARKING IN HERE.
I'M STILL NEW TO THE CITY. TRAFFIC HERE IS CRAZY.

Well, IT'S REALLY NICE OF YOU GIVING ME A LIFT LIKE THIS.
IF YOU WEREN'T SO SWEET I'D DEFINITELY THINK TWICE ABOUT WALKING DOWN THIS--

SLOOP

In the beginning I was just using a garment bag with chloroform coated inside.

I thought it would take a bit to work up the nerve to find them at first.

It was a while before I realized how much easier it was if you let them come to you.
Fwunk

The forest was always safe.
It was my laboratory.
The practice was evolving.
ZOOT ZOOT
I was experimenting with different materials.
I ALMOST DON'T BELIEVE IT. YOU'RE FINALLY GOING TO GET YOUR EARS PIERCED?
SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU. DINNER'S READY.
I was growing fast, and I needed space.

WITH THE SHIPMENT AND THE STOCK ROTATION, I THINK I'M GOING TO BE IN GREAT SHAPE WHILE YOU AND MOTHER ARE ON VACATION.
SAMMY, WE COULDN'T BE MORE PROUD OF YOU MAKING THIS A FAMILY BUSINESS.
FEEL FREE TO TAKE YOUR TIME IN FLORIDA. WOULD YOU EVER CONSIDER LIVING DOWN THERE FOR RETIREMENT?
Oh, WHO KNOWS? THAT'S ***TWENTY*** YEARS DOWN THE LINE AT LEAST.

Twenty years?

YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB, BUT YOU'VE STILL GOT A ***LONG*** WAYS TO GO.

"SAMANTHA'S ***ALWAYS*** BEEN THERE FOR US."

IT'S REALLY SPECIAL TO HAVE SOMEONE IN YOUR LIFE LIKE THAT.

SHE ***IS*** REALLY SPECIAL.

THERE YOU ARE. I WAS STARTING TO GET WORRIED SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU.

YOU'RE UP TO BAT, BUDDY.
CLOCK IN AND I'LL BE BACK IN A FEW.
Uh, SURE THING, SAMANTHA.
AND IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO RUN THE COUNTER BY MYSELF?
YOU'LL BE JUST FINE, AND I WON'T BE LONG.
YOU THOUGHT ANY MORE ABOUT WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT?
YES... but--
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK ABOUT ME YET?
NOPE, NOT YET.
Listen, I'M NOT HIS MOM, BUT HE'S GOT ENOUGH PROBLEMS AS IT IS AND HE DOESN'T NEED TO BE SMOKING ON TOP OF THAT.
FAIR ENOUGH.
YOU GOT TIME FOR A WALK? I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
"*Oh,* SAMANTHA, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE."

IT LOOKS *GREAT,* SAMMY.
I HOPE YOU LIKE IT.
THIS WHOLE DINNER IS JUST MY WAY OF SAYING *THANKS* BEFORE YOU TWO HEAD OUT TOMORROW.
Well, LET'S DIG IN.
YOU'VE REALLY *OUTDONE YOURSELF,* DEAR. THANK YOU.
HOW EARLY DO YOU PLAN ON LEAVING TOMORROW?
WE'LL PROBABLY HIT THE ROAD BY FIVE-THIRTY.
AND I BET WE'LL BE ON INTERSTATE NINETY-ONE BY THE TIME MOST PEOPLE ARE HAVING THEIR BREAKFAST.

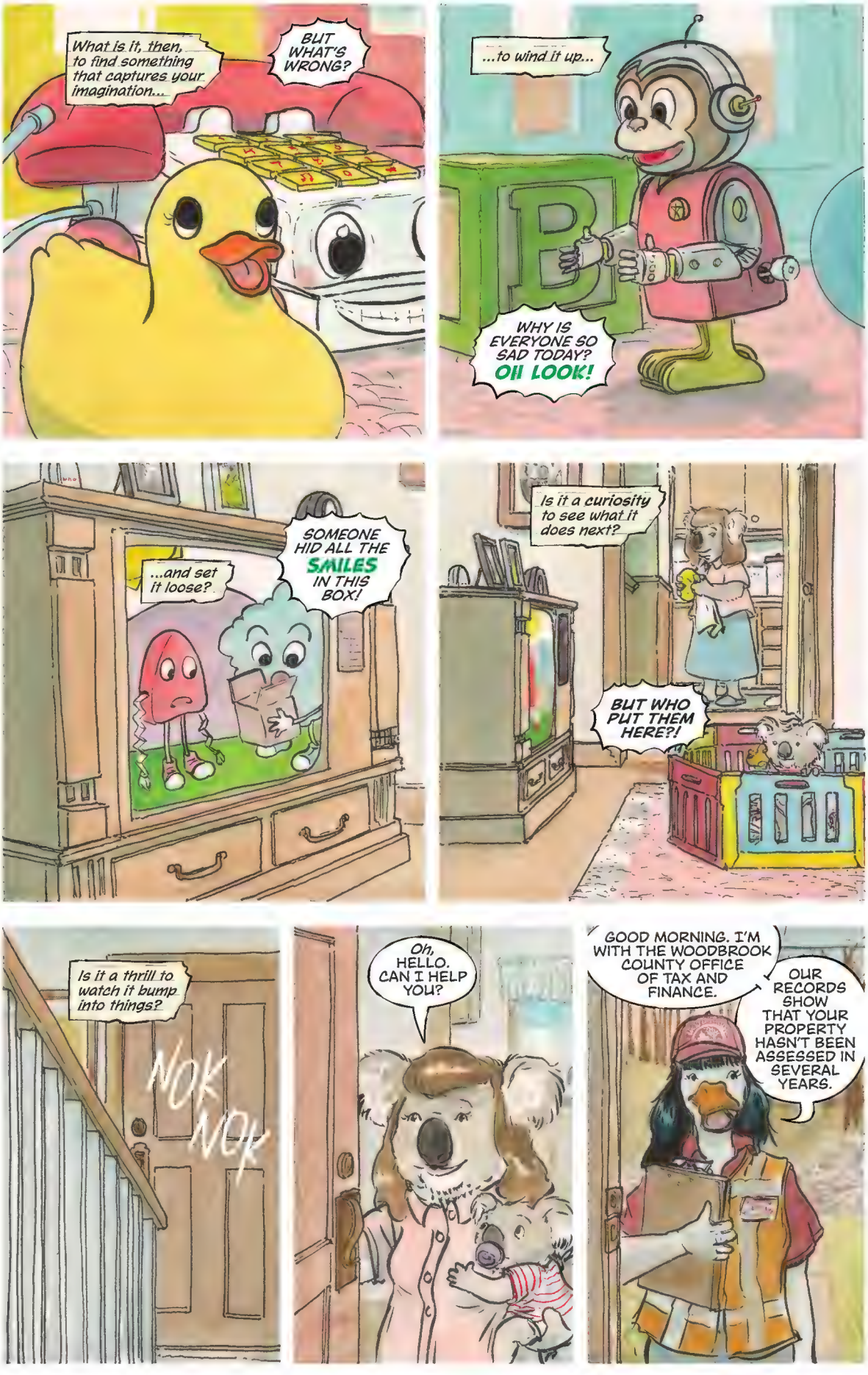
WHATEVER YOUR FATHER SAYS, WE'RE STILL GOING TO TAKE OUR TIME GETTING DOWN THERE TO ENJOY THE SIGHTS.
SAMANTHA DEAR, YOU SHOULD EAT YOUR FOOD. IT'S GOING TO GET COLD.
OFF
...can't breathe
ROGER?!
He's--
--he's--
--he's--
--HE'S HAVING A HEART ATTACK!
FWUMP
Whuh-what's happening?
IT'S NOT A HEART ATTACK, MOTHER.
IT'S CYANIDE.
FWUMP

It was like everything had been practice leading up to this...
ZOOT ZOOT
...like I was taking a final exam that I'd been studying for.
I aced it.
And I came through on the other side...
...ready to be who I was meant to be.

"I LOVE THIS LITTLE WALK."
STARTING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ALL THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL, I USED TO MOW MOST OF THE LAWNS ON THIS STREET.
THIS TIME OF YEAR ALWAYS REMINDS ME OF ALL THAT STARTING UP AGAIN.
I WAS NEVER CUT OUT FOR THAT.
TO BE HONEST, IT WAS MY *DAD'S* IDEA. HE NEVER KNEW WHAT TO DO WITH ME AS A KID, SO HE JUST PUT ME TO WORK.
THIS IS ALL NICE, BUT ARE WE JUST WALKING AROUND OR ARE YOU ACTUALLY *TAKING ME SOMEWHERE?*
ONE OF THE BEST PARTS ABOUT WORKING HERE WAS VISITING MY FRIEND, *LOLA.*
HER FOLKS LIVED JUST DOWN HERE, AND SHE'D ALWAYS MEET ME RIGHT HERE WITH A COLD BOTTLE OF SODA.

SHE ENDED UP PREGNANT AND ON HER OWN, SO HER PARENTS LET HER STAY HERE.
HER FOLKS BOTH DIED PRETTY YOUNG, AND THEN IT WAS JUST LOLA AND NIGEL ON THEIR OWN AFTER THAT.
NOW A YOUNG COUPLE WITH A BABY LIVE HERE, AND APPARENTLY THEY DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.
NIGEL HAD A *LOT* OF SECRETS, AND I CAN ALMOST GUARANTEE YOU THERE'S STILL SOMETHING HIDDEN IN HIS OLD ROOM. NOTES... MAYBE *PICTURES.*
AND SOMEHOW I'M GOING TO JUST *FIND* IT?
IF YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE SHERIFF, THIS IS YOUR BEST BET.
IT'S SORT OF *CROSSING A LINE* THOUGH. TO BE HONEST, I DON'T THINK *I* COULD DO IT.
YOU'LL HAVE TO *LIE* TO GAIN THEIR TRUST AND GET INSIDE THEIR HOUSE. AND THEN THEY'LL BE INVOLVED IN ALL THIS WHETHER THEY LIKE IT OR NOT. IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE A *VIOLATION* OF THEIR *HOME,* YOU KNOW?
IT'S A SHAME TO HAVE TO DO THAT TO PEOPLE WHO ARE MINDING THEIR OWN BUSINESS. THAT MIGHT BE SOMETHING YOU'LL HAVE TO CARRY AROUND FOR A LONG TIME...
...BUT IF YOU WANT TO FIND YOUR BROTHER *BAD ENOUGH...*

FOUR


What is it, then, to find something that captures your imagination...
BUT WHAT'S WRONG?
...to wind it up...
WHY IS EVERYONE SO SAD TODAY?
OH LOOK!
...and set it loose?
SOMEONE HID ALL THE SMILES IN THIS BOX!
Is it a curiosity to see what it does next?
BUT WHO PUT THEM HERE?!
Is it a thrill to watch it bump into things?
NOK NOK
Oh, HELLO. CAN I HELP YOU?
GOOD MORNING. I'M WITH THE WOODBROOK COUNTY OFFICE OF TAX AND FINANCE.
OUR RECORDS SHOW THAT YOUR PROPERTY HASN'T BEEN ASSESSED IN SEVERAL YEARS.

IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, I JUST NEED A FEW MINUTES TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND.
Oh, well, COME IN.
WE'RE JUST DOING OUR MORNING ROUTINE, BUT WE HAVE A BIT BEFORE NAP TIME.
HONEY? IS SOME-ONE KNOCKING AT THE DOOR?
Oh, MY APOLOGIES. HOW DO YOU DO?
GOOD MORNING. I WAS JUST EXPLAINING THAT I'M FROM THE COUNTY, AND IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU TWO, I'D LIKE TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND YOUR HOME TO ASSESS IT.
I GUESS I DON'T MIND IF SHE LOOKS AROUND.
I GUESS NOT, BUT GEEZ, I HOPE THEY DON'T WANNA RAISE OUR TAXES.
Ah, TO BE HONEST, I DON'T THINK THERE'S GOING TO BE AN INCREASE.
JUST GLANCING AROUND, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOU'VE MADE ANY BIG CHANGES.

Ha! Well, I like the sound of that.
I'll be in the basement banging away on our water heater. Just give a shout if you need anything.
Let me know if you'd like a cup of tea or something to drink.
Monica, what the hell are you doing?

Wind it up and let it loose...
...see how far it goes before it topples over.
It was a strange new feeling to be so close to Monica.
Strange to breathe the same air as someone who's been fixated on my work for so long.
The past was echoing back.
It was rhyming.
SAM? THAT YOU?

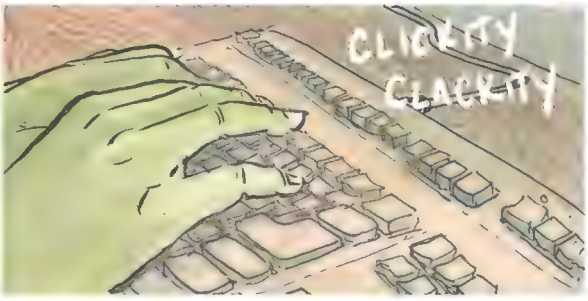
IT'S ALWAYS "Oh, PLEASE, DADDY, CAN WE HAVE HIM? I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM AND DO EVERYTHING, I PROMISE," AND AFTER A WEEK OF THAT YOU REALIZE IT'S ACTUALLY JUST YOU DOING EVERYTHING.
SAY, WHATCHA DOING, ANYWAY?

BIRDY: That's alright I'm more of a couple cups of coffee in the morning and a glass of whine at night type of guy.

BIRDY: Oh! I meant wine. That too, I guess.

ILoveTennis63: LOL ur pretty funny

ILoveTennis63: A/S/L

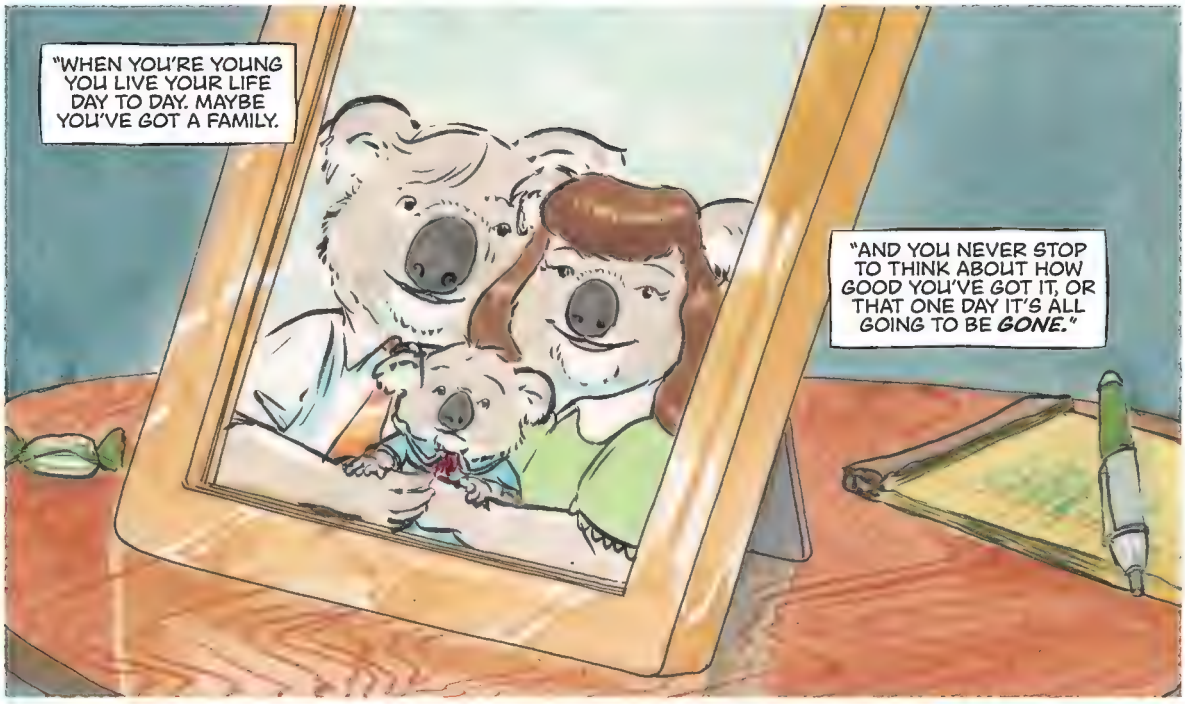


72 / turtle / Woodbrook, VT

CHOVS, IT'S SO NEAT TO MEET FOLKS ACROSS THE WORLD LIKE THIS.
PROBABLY NEED TO GET CAUGHT UP ON WORK, THOUGH.
WHINE--
Oh, SHOOT, GIRL. I'M SORRY. YOU'VE GOTTA GO REALLY BAD, I BET.
BOOP
YOUR TRIAL HAS EXPIRED
PLEASE ENTER YOUR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION TO CONTINUE.
$4.95/HR
Oh, dang, I used up all my hours already?
I was just starting to make friends...
OKAY, OKAY, LET'S GO. I'VE GOT AN IDEA.

DON'T SUPPOSE WE'LL SEE ANY BEARS TODAY.
I'm sure the nursing home has, like, twenty of those disks they don't care about.
HELLO?
Are... are you guys open?
Um... HELLOOOoOOOO.
Maybe everybody is having brunch.
Eureka!
Help me.
HELLO?! SOMEBODY AT THE DESK, FINALLY?! WE NEED HELP OVER HERE, GODDAMMIT!

H-hello?
IN HERE! AND HURRY UP!
Oh, IT'S YOU! GOOD. GIVE US A HAND.
GRAB ONE OF THOSE WHEELCHAIRS FROM THE HALL.
WE'VE BEEN DOWN HERE SINCE LARRY FELL HALF AN HOUR AGO.
NOT ONE GODDAMN PERSON HEARD US UNTIL YOU SWEETIES CAME BY.
Oh, well, HAPPY TO HELP.
WE WERE, ah, JUST WALKING BY...
Uh, EVERYTHING OKAY?
NO, EVERYTHING'S NOT OKAY! WE'VE BEEN CALLING FOR HELP AND NOBODY CAME!
WHAT ARE YOU, LIKE THIRTY-FIVE? FORTY?
I'M SEVENTY-TWO.
HA!
YOU DAMN TURTLES DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW GOOD YOU'VE GOT IT.
THEY PUT THE REST OF US OUT TO PASTURE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS THAT GETS BOUGHT OUT AND THEN RUN WITH A SKELETON CREW.


"WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE DAY TO DAY. MAYBE YOU'VE GOT A FAMILY.
"AND YOU NEVER STOP TO THINK ABOUT HOW GOOD YOU'VE GOT IT, OR THAT ONE DAY IT'S ALL GOING TO BE GONE."

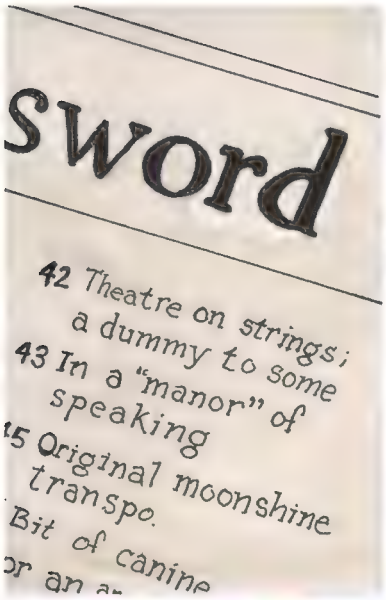
SO, ah, I THINK I'M ALL DONE DOWN HERE.

I'LL JUST HEAD UPSTAIRS AND HAVE A LOOK AROUND.
OKAY! WE'RE JUST HAVING A LITTLE BREAKFAST BEFORE OUR MORNING NAP. LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED ANYTHING!

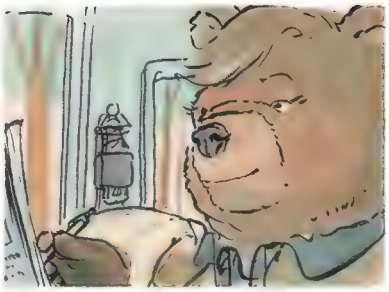
Head to the top of the stairs...

...door-way on the right.

Why'd it have to be the nursery?


sword
42 Theatre on strings; a dummy to some
43 In a "manor" of speaking
45 Original moonshine transpo.
Bit of canine
or an

SKETCH
67 "Halt!"

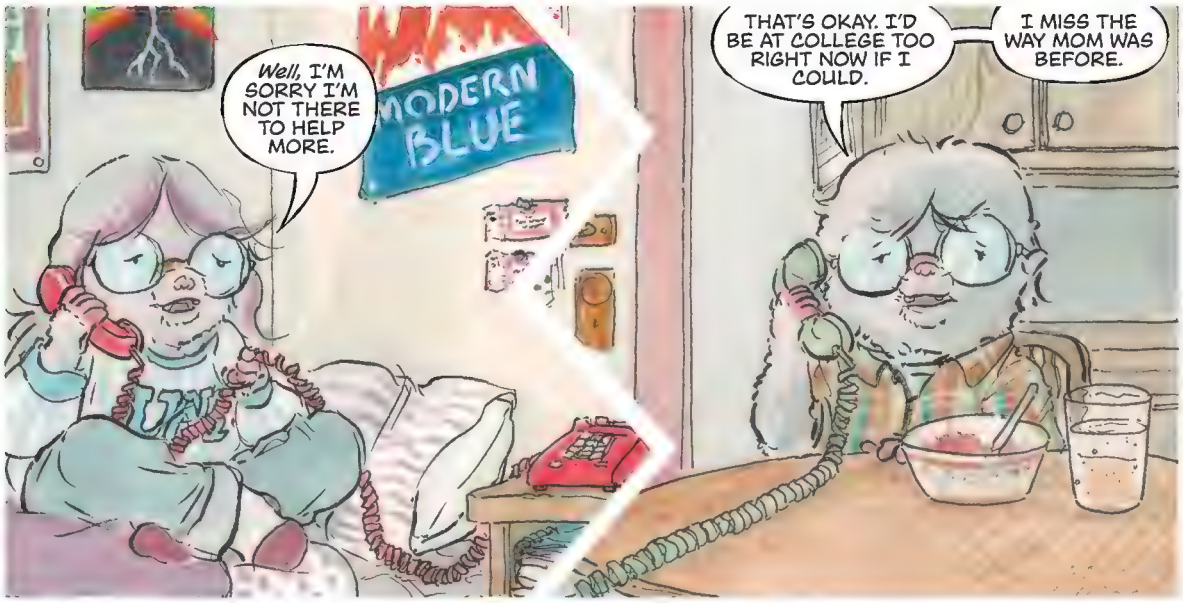


WHY, HELLO THERE, MRS. ROBIN.
WHERE'S MR. ROBIN? IS HE RUNNING LATE?

Or maybe something *horrible* has happened to him.

LEWIE, I'M SO SORRY I OVERSLEPT AGAIN!
It's fine.
NEXT TIME JUST DUMP SOME WATER ON ME. OR MAYBE WE COULD GET A CATTLE PROD.
MOM, SERIOUSLY, IT'S NO BIG DEAL. FIRST PERIOD IS HEALTH.
It's so boring.
BUT IT'S YOUR EDUCATION.
MOM, STOP.
AND IT'S MY FAULT THAT YOU'RE MISSING OUT ON IT.
MOM, STOP THE CAR!
IT'S A RED LIGHT!
ERRRRRT
AUTO YARD

I'm sorry, sweetie. I--
--HAVE A GOOD DAY. I'LL SEE YOU AFTER WORK.
WOODBROOK HIGH SCHOOL
BRRRRR
"SO, HOW WAS YOUR DAY?"
"IT WAS OKAY. MOM OVERSLEPT AGAIN, AND I MISSED HEALTH WITH MR. KELLER."
"THAT'S NOT ALL BAD, I GUESS. Ha.
"YOU STILL HANGING AROUND WITH THE SAME FRIENDS FROM LAST YEAR?"
"Oh, yeah. PRETTY MUCH.
"I GUESS SOME OF 'EM AREN'T AROUND AS MUCH NOW THAT THEY HAVE THEIR DRIVER'S LICENSES.
"Can't wait until I can finally drive."
"SORRY I'M NOT THERE, BUD."
"IT'S OKAY.
"I MOSTLY JUST LISTEN TO MUSIC AND DO HOMEWORK."


Well, I'M SORRY I'M NOT THERE TO HELP MORE.
MODERN BLUE
THAT'S OKAY. I'D BE AT COLLEGE TOO RIGHT NOW IF I COULD.
I MISS THE WAY MOM WAS BEFORE.

Yeah...
...I miss Dad.
Yeah... me too.

"I'M AFRAID MOM NEEDS HELP..."
HI, DID YOU FIND EVERYTHING OKAY?

"...AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

"IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S ALWAYS EITHER CRYING OR SLEEPING."
WATCH YOUR STEP!

I CAN FINISH UP THE LAST OF THAT AS SOON AS I'M BACK FROM MY BREAK.
THANKS, PAULINE.
HEY, CINDY.
Oh, HEY. I WAS HOPING TO RUN INTO YOU.
YOU, uh, LEFT YOUR JACKET OUT WHEN YOU CLOCKED IN.
I PUT IT BACK IN YOUR LOCKER, BUT I NOTICED THOSE PILLS IN THE POCKET.
Um, MY BROTHER HAD A PRETTY BAD ADDICTION TO THOSE...
Oh, I DON'T REALLY TAKE THEM. MY DOCTOR JUST GAVE ME A PRESCRIPTION. HE THINKS I'M ANXIOUS.
SURE. Well, YOU'RE A SWEETIE, PAULINE. IF YOU EVER NEED IT, I CAN INTRODUCE YOU TO THE REHAB PLACE THAT HELPED HIM.
BREAK ROOM
Tidy
Rx
Take as d
doctor

Nope.
Nope.
Nope.
There's no goddamn box hidden in this--
--room?
You little psycho, did you *really* hide something here?
SO SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT WE'RE ALMOST READY FOR NAP AND I WAS WONDERING--

Oh, wait, what are you doing?
ARE YOU HIDING SOMETHING IN MY BABY'S ROOM?
NO, NOT AT ALL. I JUST--
--I FOUND THIS IN THE FLOOR AND--
MICHAEL?!
Ma'am, please.
I promise, this is just a misunderstanding.
Oof!
I'll just step out and maybe we can calm down.
MICHAEL GET UP HERE, NOW!
THIS WOMAN'S HIDING SOMETHING IN RICKY'S ROOM!
WAAA

I'M SO SORRY! I'LL JUST STEP OUTSIDE.
WAAAA
WHOA! HEY, ah, LET'S ALL TAKE IT EASY.
CAROL, ARE YOU AND RICKY OKAY?
SHE WAS TRYING TO PUT SOMETHING INTO RICKY'S ROOM.
WAAAA!
I promise, I wasn't. I just found this box and--
CREAK
THEN IF YOU FOUND IT IN OUR HOME...
=Hmmhs
...LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT IT.
I CAN'T...
...LET YOU...
...HAVE IT!
No.

THUMP
WHACK
CRACK
SPLAT
MICHAEL?!
HE WON'T WAKE UP!
SOMEBODY PLEASE HELP ME!
=Huff=
=Huff=
=Huff=
START--
=Huff=
--THE CAR!
=Huff=
OFF
ON
START
CH-WUT-WUT
NOW GET ME THE FUCK OUTTA HERE!
INYBODY! PLEASE!

=KOff=
=KAff=
YOU WERE RIGHT...
VROOOOOM
...IT WAS HIDDEN IN NIGEL'S OLD ROOM--
=KAff=
I think I might have hurt that guy back there.
SHOULD WE GO BACK?
I don't know.
WAS IT BAD?
LET ME SEE WHAT THE HELL IS EVEN IN THIS THING.
Well, well. WHAT'S THIS?
A MAP?
MISSING
VERMONT
SAMANTHA! THIS IS IT!
YOU'RE A GENIUS!
I am?
ALL THESE SPOTS. IT LOOKS LIKE HE MARKED WHERE HE BURIED HIS VICTIMS.
THIS SPOT HERE! IT'S MARKED WITH THE DATE DANNY DISAPPEARED!
THAT'S NOT THAT FAR AWAY.

SAMANTHA, I REALLY CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH. I MEAN, I KNOW THIS STILL MIGHT NOT BE ANYTHING, BUT YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON WHO *REALLY* GAVE A SHIT.
I DON'T BELIEVE IN FATE, BUT IT'S *WILD* THAT YOU FOUND ME.
MOTOR BROOK MOTEL
VACANCY
I HONESTLY NEVER THOUGHT THIS DAY WOULD COME. TALKING WITH YOUR SHERIFF, IT SEEMED LIKE MY CHANCES WERE ABOUT AS FUCKED AS THEY COULD GET.
I READ IN THE NEWSPAPER THAT HE BURIED HIS VICTIMS IN PAINT CANS, AND IT GOT ME THINKING THAT IT MIGHT BE TRICKY TO FIND THEM.
Nigel, you *sneaky little shit.*
THEN I STUMBLED ACROSS THIS THING IN A PAWN SHOP. IT'S LIKE IT WAS MEANT TO BE.
. Travel Resources
· Local maps
Samantha's buried treasure
Aug '85 - Sep '86
I suppose it could be fate.
Fate that she didn't see his writing on the map.
Maybe I could help out fate for just a little bit longer.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS METAL DETECTOR? IT'S A LITTLE BEAT UP, BUT IT STILL WORKS GREAT.
THAT'S *PERFECT.*
THROW IT IN THE BACK AND LET'S GO *SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND.*

FIVE

There's a trap lying in plain sight for everyone to fall in...
CLICK
...the precious notions of firsts and lasts.
And there's almost no regard for the middle.
SKREE
So quick to lose these moments in the noise of our lives.
SNAP
THE NEW WILD WEST
SEEN
But every part has a place in the story.
SNAP
WOODBROOK WANDERER
Every bit of it death-defying.
SNAP
CHINA
GOOD MORNING, CHIP. HOW'S IT GOING?
ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER DOLLAR. WHAT'S GOOD, LEWIS?

I'M DOING MY WORK-STUDY AGAIN TODAY. SAMANTHA HAS ME OPENING THE SHOP THIS MORNING.
SO, WE'RE GETTING A NEW HIGH-WAY?
APPARENTLY SO. NOT THAT WE NEED IT.
WOODBROOOK COUNTY IS SCARED ABOUT BEING LEFT BEHIND.
EVEN *IF* IT IMPROVES TRAVEL TIMES, ***CAR FATALITIES*** ARE GOING TO GO WAY UP FOR A WHILE I BET.
AND WE CAN'T ***STOP*** IT?
APPARENTLY, IT'S WHAT THE PEOPLE ***WANT.***
PLANE CRASHES, BUILDINGS COLLAPSING, COUNTRIES OVER-THROWN, TOXIC WASTE BURIED...
PEOPLE WILL ACCEPT A LOT OF DEATH IF IT'S FOR MONEY OR POLITICS.
IT'S ALL HERE IN THESE PAGES. EVERY DAY SOMETHING NEW...
GAZINES • TABLOIDS

YOU KNOW, WAY BACK WHEN, THEY USED TO SACRIFICE PEOPLE FOR A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST.
YOU HAVE TO WONDER IF WE REALLY LEFT THAT BEHIND.
THERE'S QUITE A FEW POCKETS OF FOREST THAT ARE MAINTAINED BY THE STATE, BUT THERE'S A WHOLE BUNCH SURROUNDING IT ALL THAT'S PRETTY SECLUDED.
BY THE LOOKS OF IT, NIGEL WAS BUSY ALL OVER THE AREA.
8/3/86
9/29/86
THERE ARE SEVERAL CLASS 4 ROADS THAT ALSO LEAD INTO HERE...
...BUT WHO KNOWS WHICH ONE HE TOOK.
20
90
22
26
24
112
Chelsea
YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO WRITE WITH? WE SHOULD KEEP TRACK OF WHICH ONES WE LOOK AT.
IT'S SO REMOTE. I HAVE A FEELING HE PROBABLY TOOK THE MAIN ROAD IN.
NO PEN OR ANYTHING?
I'VE GOT SOME PUTT-PUTT PENCILS IN THE GLOVE BOX.
Jesus, Sam. THIS IS THE MOST BORING GLOVE BOX I'VE EVER SEEN.
Well, IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOME FUN, IT SEEMS WE'VE GOT SOME COMPANY AFTER ALL.

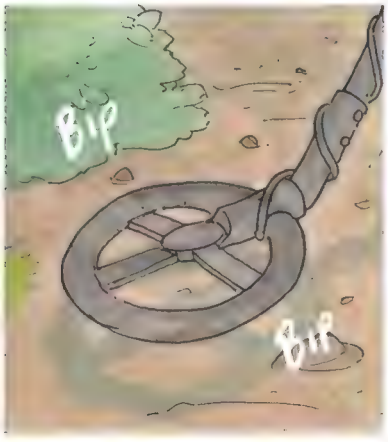
Fuck.
WHAT ARE *THESE* BOZOS DOING HERE?
BIG BOY
DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN POPPING UP ALL OVER THE COUNTY. THIS'LL PROBABLY BE SOME LUXURY GATED COMMUNITY.
So, WHAT NOW? WE PARK DOWN THE ROAD AND HIKE IN?
Oh, I THINK WE CAN GET A BIT CLOSER BEFORE WE HAVE TO HIKE.
THINGS MIGHT GET A LITTLE MESSY...
CLUNK
...BUT WE'LL GET THERE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

OKAY, OKAY. I'LL DO A ROLLER COASTER, BUT ONLY IF I CAN CLOSE MY EYES THE WHOLE TIME.
Ah-- you weenie!
That's cheating.
Yeah, okay...
BRRRRRING
Hey, Pauline. What if we got married?
BRRRRRING
Hnnnhello?
Aw, geez, Mom! YOU ARE STILL HOME!
I'VE BEEN CALLING FOR HALF AN HOUR! I'M AT WORK, REMEMBER? I'M NOT THERE TO WAKE YOU UP.
YOU'RE GONNA BE SO LATE FOR WORK!
Oh...NO, SSSSSS'OKAY, HONEY. I'M JUST HEADING OUT THE DOOR.
Christ, Pauline. What are we doing?

Okay, Jesus, THIS IS GOING TO TAKE DAYS TO FIND.
Well, WHAT WOULD MAKE SENSE?
LET'S TRY TO THINK LIKE NIGEL. YOU WANT TO BURY A BODY IN THE WOODS. WHERE WOULD BE EASIEST?

BURYING PAINT CANS.
RIGHT, PAINT CANS.
HE'D NEED SOMEWHERE FLAT ENOUGH AND WITH SOME ROOM...

...LIKE OVER THERE?
LET'S GIVE IT A SHOT.


BIP
BIP

WAIT, I HAVE SOME-THING!
BIP
BIP
BIP

BIP
BIP
BIP
BIP
BIP
BIP
BIP
BIP
BIP
BIP

HERE! DIG HERE!

SHUNK

I'VE GOT SOMETHING.
!

In that moment you could feel the shift...
...like a glacier melting...
I NEED A SCREW-DRIVER.
COMING UP.
...collapsing into the sea.
POP
There you are, Danny.
What the fuck are you doing *out here?*

KRTCH
Oh God.
I'm so late...
...Rich is going to fire me this time.
CH-WUT-WUT-VROOM
Please just get me there fast...
CLUNK
...maybe they won't notice I'm late.
HEY, LADY! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO STOP AT A STOP SIGN!
STOP
HONK

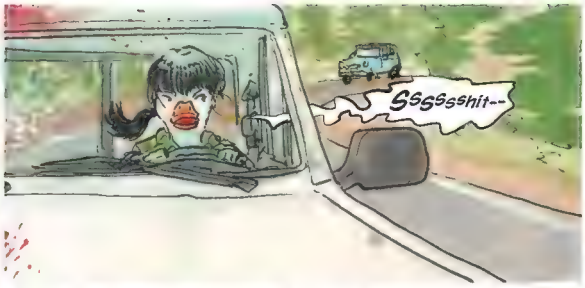
=Huff=
I'LL KEEP LOOKING, BUT I THINK THIS MIGHT BE IT.
I'LL TAKE A SWEEP TOO. I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE ANY OF HIM BEHIND.
Hmmmmm, what was he covering up?
You can *almost* make it out.
Sandra's buried treasure
Aug 85 - Sept 86
Baker
Steph

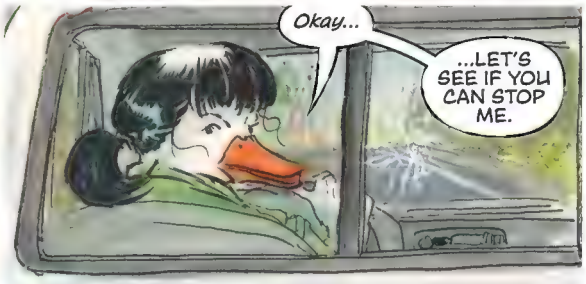
WHAT TOOK SO LONG?
I ENDED UP FINDING ANOTHER AFTER ALL...
...oh.
Ah... HEY. I DIDN'T REALIZE ANYONE WAS BACK HERE.
I'M PRETTY SURE THIS IS ALL PRIVATE PROPERTY.
I'D APPRECIATE IT IF WE COULD KEEP THIS BETWEEN JUST THE TWO OF US.
I'M SORRY, BUT I SHOULD PROBABLY REPORT ALL THIS. I--
--are you burying paint cans?
I'M DIGGING THEM UP.
DO YOU HAVE A WHITE TRUCK?
YEAH, WH--
HEY! MY TRUCK!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
IT'S OVER, YOU PSYCHO BITCH!
YOU PUT ALL OF THEM HERE WITH NIGEL, DIDN'T YOU?!
AND THEN YOU JUST TOYED WITH ME!
DYNASTY CONSTRUCTION
CURRRGH
It was like watching a flower blossom...
LADY, I'LL PULL YOU OUTTA THERE WITH MY OWN HANDS IF I HAVE TO!
WHUMP
OOOF!
There was something so freeing in that moment. I don't know that I'd ever felt that way before.
STAY OUTTA MY WAY!
VRRRRRRR
RRRRRRRRR

I was honestly hoping the body would slow her down or at least make her veer off into a tree.
But there was a part of me that was impressed that she didn't even take her foot off the gas.
And it felt like the closest I'd ever come to actually connecting with anyone.
CH-WUT-WUT-VROOM
HEY! LET'S GO!
IT AIN'T GONNA TURN GREEN. MOVE IT!
COME ON!
HONK
HONK
HONK
!!!
Get it together, Pauline. No more zonking out.
VRRRROOM

VROOM
DYNASTY
DESTRUCTION

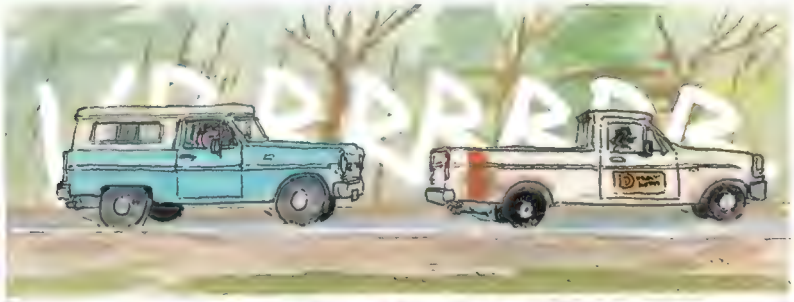

Sssssshit--


Okay...
...LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN STOP ME.

VRRRR

RRRRRR

RRRRRR



VRRR

RRRRR

RRRRR

VRRRR

SUBS & SUDS
VIDEO DREAMS
KRUNCH
SUBS & SUDS
A few words about that day and the next...

...I had a good idea of how it was going to end, but I didn't really know how we were going to get there.

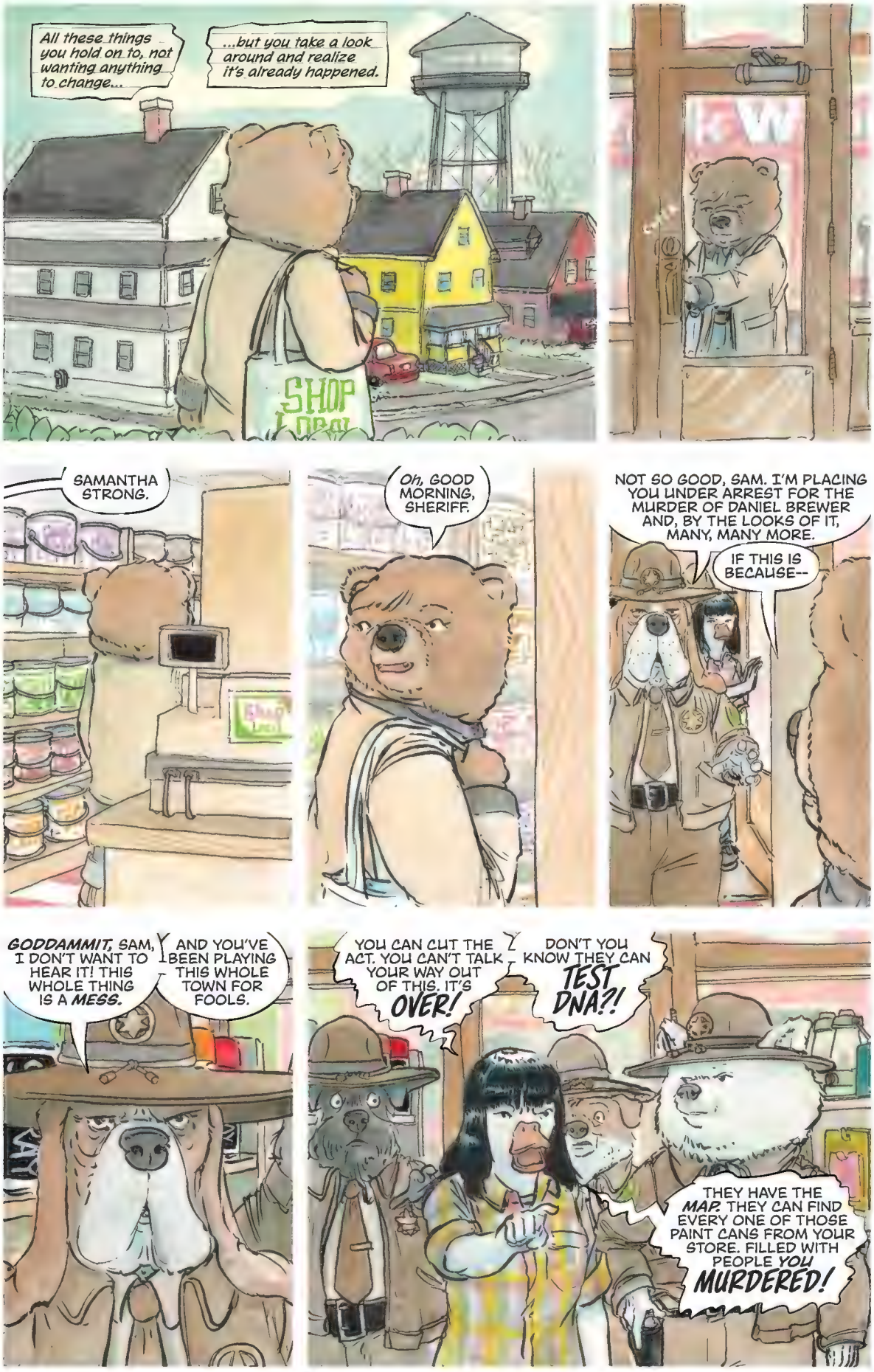
Watching her disappear down the road, it felt like the quiet end to a whole era.

When Pauline slammed into me, she was fast asleep...
...they said later that if she hadn't been so limp she might have broken her back.

I don't blame her, though.

Oh G-God...
...I almost k-killed her!
I--I'm so--

I never saw her again after that.
It was a bit of a surprise when a deputy gave me a lift home and didn't mention a thing about Monica.
THANKS! HAVE A GOOD NIGHT!
EMERGENCY 911
Maybe she never told them.
Maybe she did and they wanted me to sweat a little...
...waiting for the other shoe to drop.
On that last day, you could feel that everything was changing....
...felt like the whole town was getting so loud.
It was hard to hear yourself think.


All these things you hold on to, not wanting anything to change...
...but you take a look around and realize it's already happened.
SHOP
SAMANTHA STRONG.
Oh, GOOD MORNING, SHERIFF.
NOT SO GOOD, SAM. I'M PLACING YOU UNDER ARREST FOR THE MURDER OF DANIEL BREWER AND, BY THE LOOKS OF IT, MANY, MANY MORE.
IF THIS IS BECAUSE--
GODDAMMIT, SAM, I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT! THIS WHOLE THING IS A MESS.
AND YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING THIS WHOLE TOWN FOR FOOLS.
YOU CAN CUT THE ACT. YOU CAN'T TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS. IT'S OVER!
DON'T YOU KNOW THEY CAN TEST DNA?!
THEY HAVE THE MAP. THEY CAN FIND EVERY ONE OF THOSE PAINT CANS FROM YOUR STORE. FILLED WITH PEOPLE YOU MURDERED!

HEY, CHIP. WH-WHAT ARE ALL THESE PATROL CARS DOING AT THE SHOP?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS SINCE--
Oh, HOW'S YOUR MOM DOING? I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE NOT AT THE HOSPITAL.
SHE'S REALLY BANGED UP, BUT SO FAR THEY SAY SHE'LL BE OKAY. I MEAN...
MAYBE IT'S BETTER IF YOU DON'T GO IN TO WORK TODAY.
BUT...
...WASN'T THIS ALL SETTLED?
CAN'T WE JUST TALK A BIT AND SORT THIS ALL OUT?
SAM, YOU'VE GOTTA COME WITH US.
I'LL DRAG YOU OUTTA THERE WITH MY OWN HANDS.
MS. BREWER. HOLD ON NOW...
KEEP THOSE PAWS WHERE WE CAN SEE THEM!
GIBBS, COOL IT! EVERYBODY JUST TAKE IT DOWN A NOTCH.
AND MS. BREWER, IT'S A COURTESY YOU'RE NOT IN CUFFS. WE STILL HAVE A WHOLE OTHER MESS WE NEED TO SORT OUT WITH YOU.

BAM
APRIL
Whuh-whuh--
--WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
FWIP
SHUNK
Shot-guns?
CLICK
SPARK
BLAM

SOMEONE'S SHOOTING! RUN!
AHH! RUUUUN!
THUP
CHIP!
VHUMP
Oh no. Oh God!
Lewis
S-SOMEBODY PLEASE HELP ME!
GODDAMN YOU!
WHAM

It was just a matter of time before the world came crowding in.

The best thing you can do in a moment like that is to stand up and face it.

Deal with it on your own terms.

There might not be a place for me in all of this like before...

EXIT

...but if I can't stay in Woodbrook...

FLICK

...maybe nobody should.

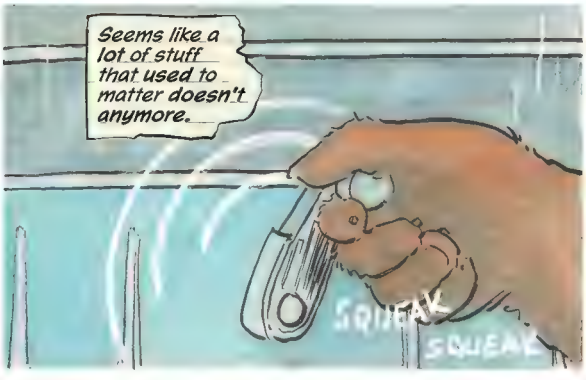
SWOOP

Sanford Long-Range DC/AC Remote Relay Switch Kits.
They can reach anywhere from a mile and a half up to three miles depending on how much RF interference you have.
They're great for little things like turning on lights and opening garages.
CITY HALL
They're also great for ignitions on incendiaries.
FWOOSH!

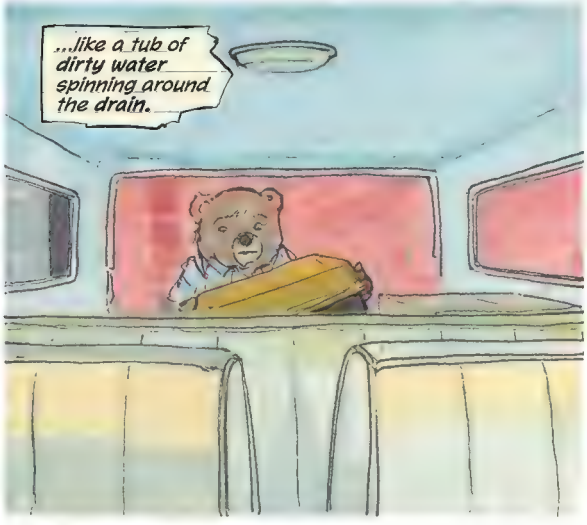
They retail for about a hundred bucks in the hardware department of a Big Deal Superstore.
We had to sell them for a couple bucks more because we couldn't buy them in bulk like they do...

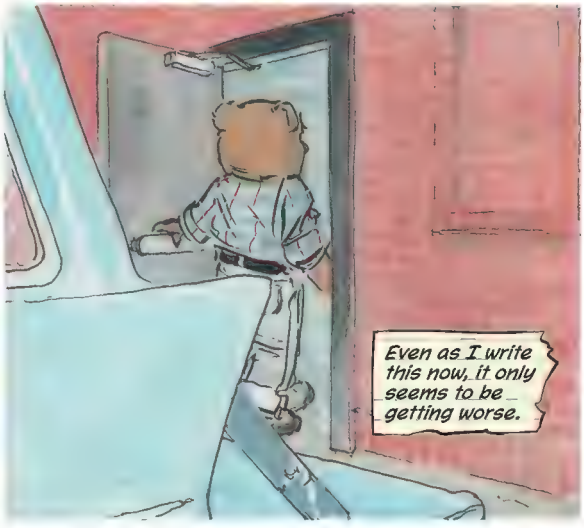
...but good luck finding a store clerk at some big box store who knows how to use 'em.

I guess that doesn't matter as much to folks these days.


Seems like a lot of stuff that used to matter doesn't anymore.
SQUEAK
SQUEAL

And whatever people do care about is getting muddy and confused...


...like a tub of dirty water spinning around the drain.

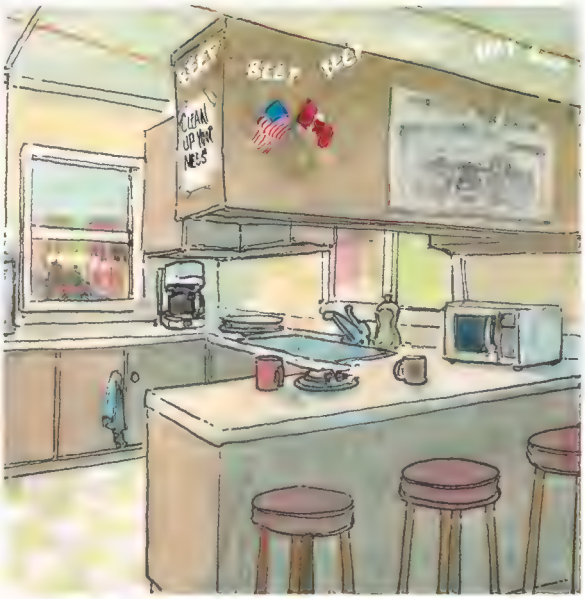

Even as I write this now, it only seems to be getting worse.

Nnnngh...
...smoke.
SssssSomething's on fire.
Oh, GOOD, YOU'RE UP.
AND YES, THE SHOP IS ON FIRE.
Hnnnnngh--
What the hell did you do to me?
I JUST TIED YOU UP.
I WAS HOPING YOU COULD STAY PUT FOR THE NEXT LITTLE BIT, AND I'LL BE ON MY WAY.
YOU WON'T GET VERY FUCKING FAR!
THIS WHOLE COUNTY IS GOING TO BE TOO BUSY TRIPPING OVER THEIR OWN TAILS TODAY TO WORRY ABOUT LITTLE OLD ME.

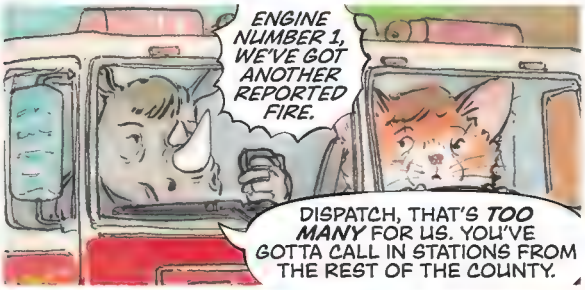
"BY THE TIME THE SMOKE CLEARS, I'M GOING TO BE LONG GONE."

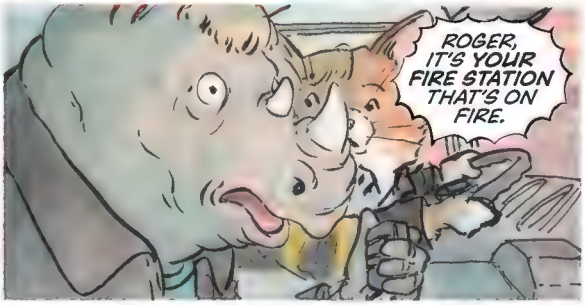
LET'S ROLL OUT!
WE'VE GOT TWO FIRES GOING, AND IF WE DON'T GET A HANDLE ON THEM THEY'RE GONNA SPREAD FAST!

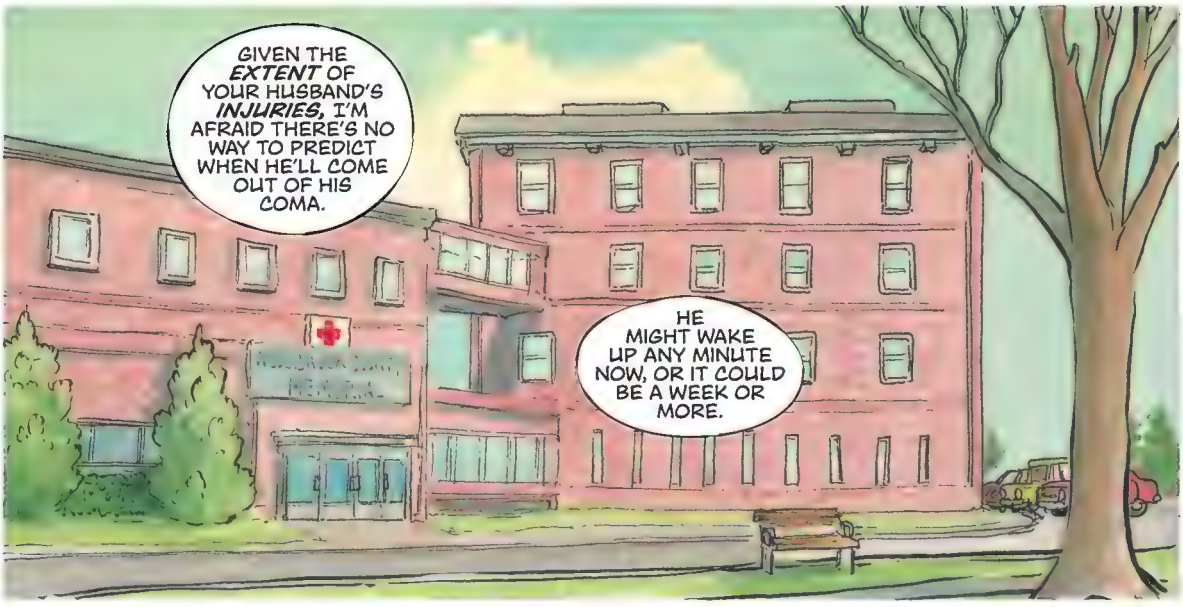
WEEEOOO


CLEAN UP YOUR MESS

FWOOSH


ENGINE NUMBER 1, WE'VE GOT ANOTHER REPORTED FIRE.
DISPATCH, THAT'S TOO MANY FOR US. YOU'VE GOTTA CALL IN STATIONS FROM THE REST OF THE COUNTY.


ROGER, IT'S YOUR FIRE STATION THAT'S ON FIRE.


GIVEN THE *EXTENT* OF YOUR HUSBAND'S *INJURIES,* I'M AFRAID THERE'S NO WAY TO PREDICT WHEN HE'LL COME OUT OF HIS COMA.
HE MIGHT WAKE UP ANY MINUTE NOW, OR IT COULD BE A WEEK OR MORE.

FWOOSH

IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, I REALLY *DO* THINK IT HELPS WHEN YOU VISIT.
THANK YOU, DOCTOR...

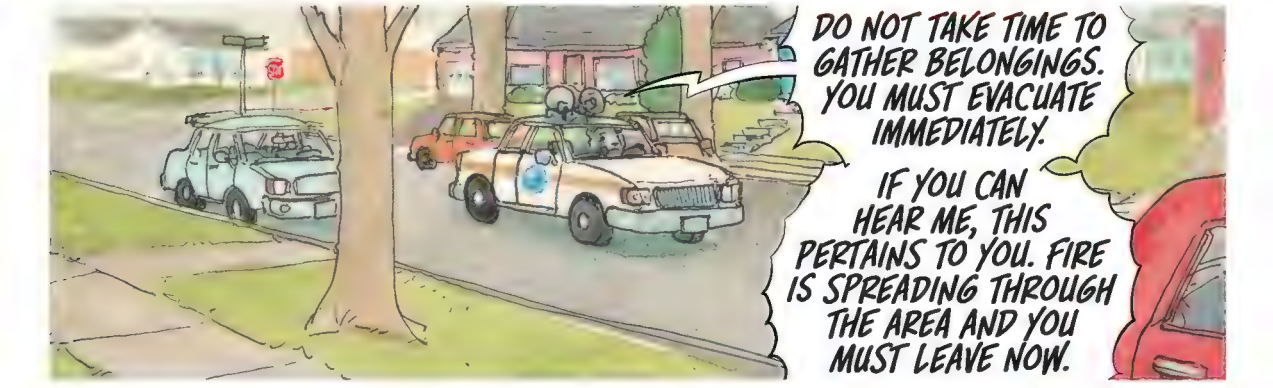
...WE'LL BE BACK TOMORROW. I THINK IT HELPS, TOO.
It helps *me,* anyway.

ACCORDING TO YOUR TOXICOLOGY REPORT, THE LEVEL OF BENZODIAZEPINE IN YOUR SYSTEM WOULD HAVE HAD THE AVERAGE PERSON COMPLETELY INCAPACITATED.
My, uh...
...my doctor prescribed me those pills for anxiety.
MRS. BURROW, YOUR SON IS STILL A MINOR AND YOU HAVE A SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEM.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TELLING YOU?
I understand.
YOU HAVE NINETY DAYS TO COMPLETE THE RECOVERY PROGRAM, FOLLOWED BY SIX MONTHS OF DOCUMENTED SOBRIETY.
THIS WILL PROBABLY BE THE HARDEST THING YOU'VE EVER DONE, BUT IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT, YOUR SON WILL BE REMOVED FROM YOUR HOME AND PLACED INTO FOSTER CARE.

FLUSH!
=Snff=
MAYBE IT'S FOR THE BEST.
MAYBE THEY'D BOTH BE BETTER OFF IF I JUST DISAPPEARED.
BWEEEP
FIRE
BWEEEP

KIDS?! ARE YOU STILL UP THERE?

KIDS! YOU NEED TO COME DOWN HERE RIGHT AWAY!
GROWLERS ALLOWED!


DO NOT TAKE TIME TO GATHER BELONGINGS. YOU MUST EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY.
IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, THIS PERTAINS TO YOU. FIRE IS SPREADING THROUGH THE AREA AND YOU MUST LEAVE NOW.

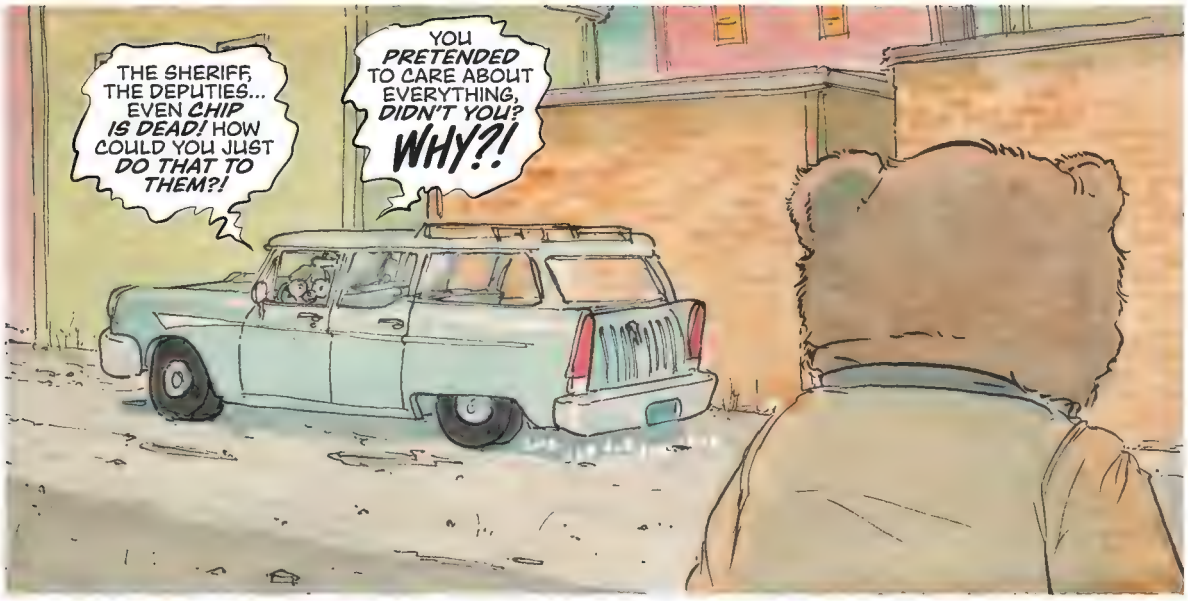
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!

WHAT FIRE?!
I DON'T WANT TO JUST LEAVE OUR HOUSE.
WHERE WOULD WE GO?

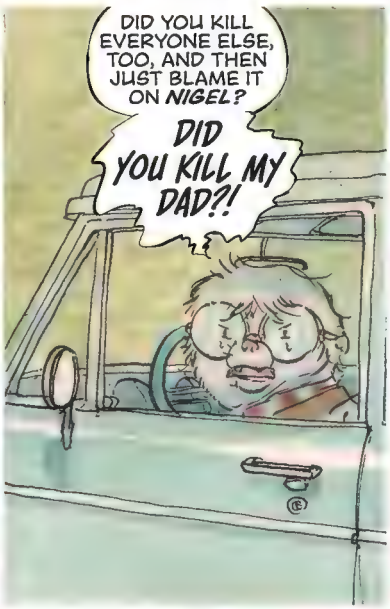
ARF!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
LET'S AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL-
ARF!
ARF!
Jesus,
FINE!
I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE WITHOUT AT LEAST TAKING SOMETHING.
TAR TARUCHA
1989
RF!
Oh, geez. I guess it is getting bad.
MAYBE IT'S NOT SO BAD ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN.
Oh, NO!
VROOOOM
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYONE AT THAT RETIREMENT HOME IS LEAVING AT ALL!
GIRL, I THINK WE NEED TO GO BACK FOR THEM.

Kid, if you ever get lucky enough to find someone who wants to spend their life with you, don't fuck it up.
Ha, okay.
CHIP! THE PARAMEDICS ARE HERE!
Chip? Keep squeezing my paw, okay?
WHERE'S THE SHERIFF AND THE DEPUTIES?
THEY'RE DEAD!
SAMANTHA KILLED ALL OF THEM!
GODDAMN YOU.
YOU'RE FUCKING VILE!
YOUR LUCK WILL RUN OUT, AND ALL OF THIS IS GOING TO COME BACK ON YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO ALL THESE PEOPLE!
DO YOU REALIZE YOU KILLED THAT MAN YESTERDAY?
IT'S INTERESTING, BUT I DON'T THINK I'VE HAD AS MUCH OF A CONNECTION WITH ANYONE AS I'VE HAD WITH YOU.

Fuck you.
IT WAS BURNING YOU UP INSIDE. YOU KNEW YOUR BROTHER WAS DEAD.
WHY WASN'T THAT ENOUGH?
I NEEDED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM.
I WAS JUST WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO WALK BY. IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANYBODY...
...AND THERE HE WAS.
DON'T LEAVE ME HERE, YOU BITCH!
YOU WANTED TO KNOW, MONICA. THIS IS WHAT IT COSTS.
GOD-DAMN YOU!
I've often wondered, if God's hand was in any of this...
...why wasn't I ever stopped?
WHO ARE YOU?!


THE SHERIFF, THE DEPUTIES... EVEN CHIP IS DEAD! HOW COULD YOU JUST DO THAT TO THEM?!
YOU PRETENDED TO CARE ABOUT EVERYTHING, DIDN'T YOU? WHY?!

LEWIS, YOU DO KNOW ME.
STEP OUT OF THE CAR AND WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT.

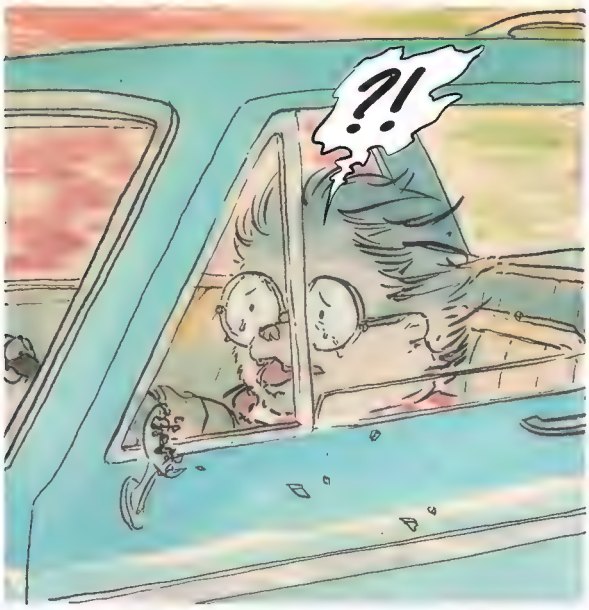

DID YOU KILL EVERYONE ELSE, TOO, AND THEN JUST BLAME IT ON NIGEL?
DID YOU KILL MY DAD?!

LEWIS, I NEED YOU TO GET OUT OF THE CAR.

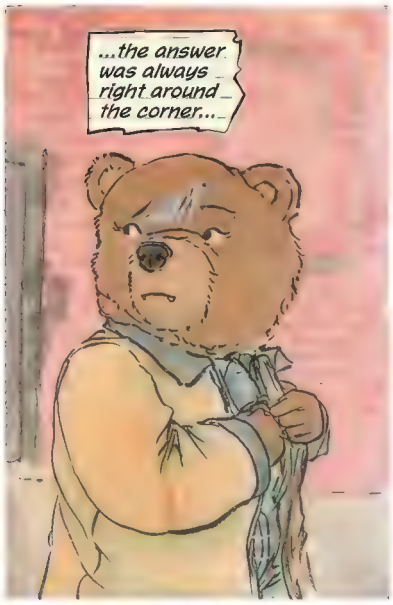
STOMP

BRRRRT

BLAM


?!

For every time the path was blocked...


...the answer was always right around the corner...

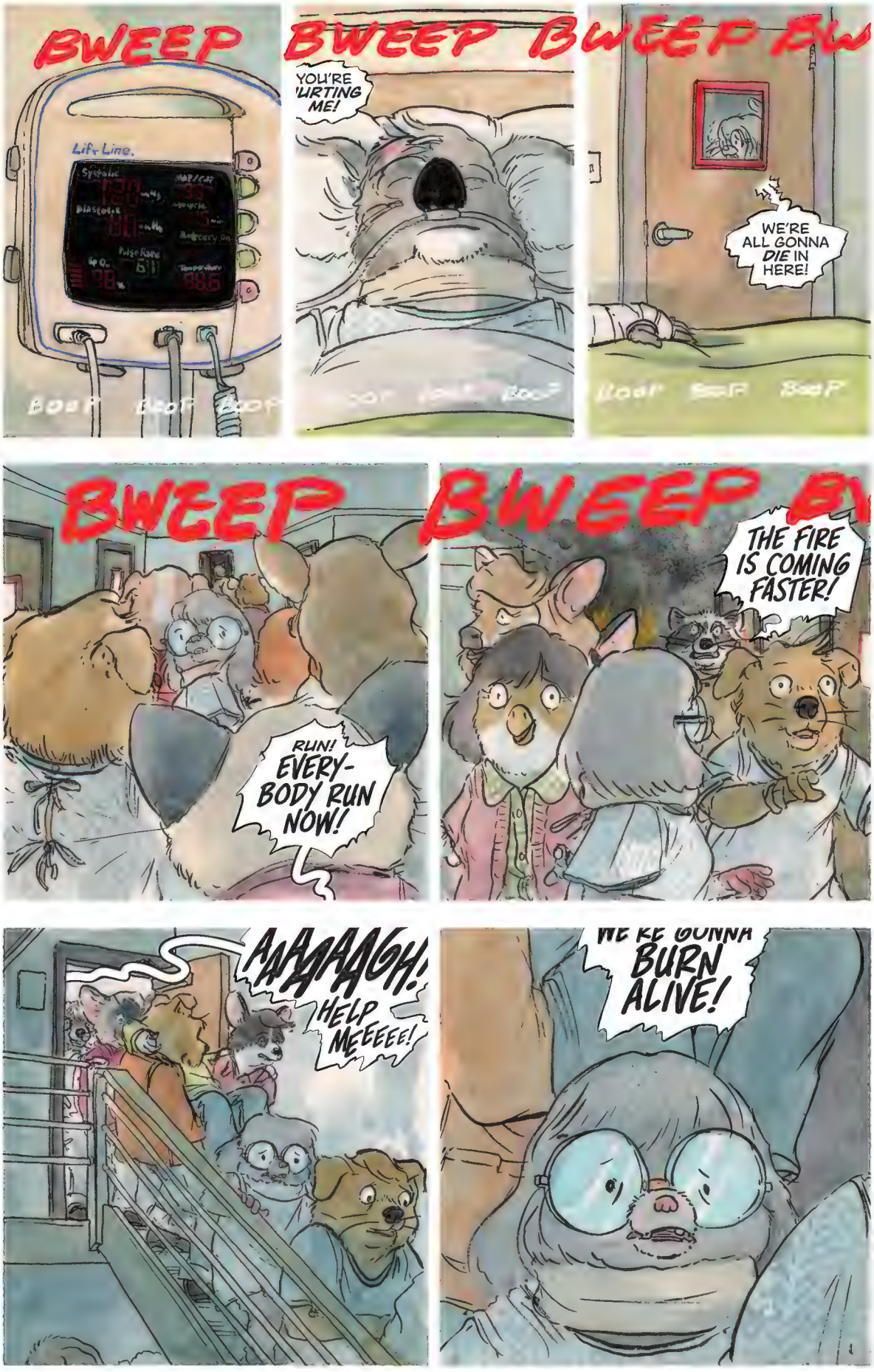
...like it was inevitable.

Geez, Sam. WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON OUT FRONT? IS YOUR SHOP ON FIRE?!
IT IS! CAN YOU GIVE ME A HAND?

KARAAAAOW!
Oh my God, IS SOMEONE STILL IN THERE?!
YES.

I'LL SEE YOU IN HELL, SAMANTHA STRONG!

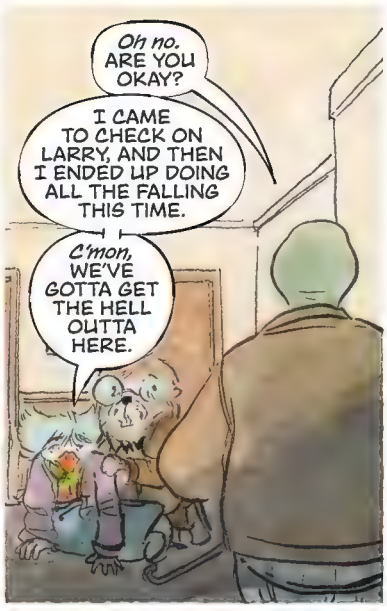
Like the river bends around the rock...
VROOM
...to make its trip out to the sea.


BWEEP
Life Line
Systolic
Diastolic
Pulse Rate
Temperature
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BWEEP BWEEP BW
YOU'RE HURTING ME!
BEEP
WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE IN HERE!
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BWEEP
RUN! EVERY-BODY RUN NOW!
BWEEP B
THE FIRE IS COMING FASTER!
AAAAAGH!
HELP MEEEEE!
WE'RE GONNA BURN ALIVE!

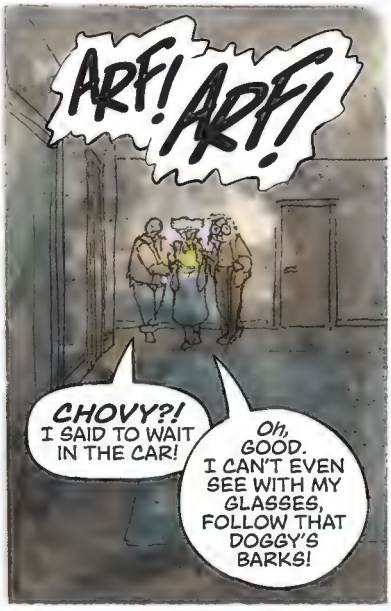
IT'S TOO SMOKY! THE FIRE IS BELOW US TOO!
NO! KEEP COMING! IT'S CLEAR BELOW!
We're gonna make it.
FIRE
PLEEEEASE! LET ME GO!
SOME-ONE HAS TO SAVE HIM!
HE'S IN A COMA, HE'LL DIE IN THERE!
Mom?
MOM! YOU'RE OKAY!
MOM! THE WHOLE TOWN IS ON FIRE! I HAD TO COME GET YOU.
Oh, Lewie.
Thank you for coming to get me.
BUT HONEY. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU COULD DRIVE.
WHOSE CAR IS THIS?
=Sob=

ANCHOVY, STAY.
I'M JUST GOING TO CHECK AND SEE IF THEIR STAFF IS GETTING THEM OUT OF HERE.
OAKS
Jesus, all the embers are just gonna catch the other houses on fire.
HELLO?
Oh no, YOU GUYS ARE JUST HERE ON YOUR OWN?
WHERE'S AGATHA?
THERE WAS ONLY ONE WORKER HERE. HE SAID HE'D BE BACK IN FIFTEEN MINUTES, BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
AGATHA WENT UPSTAIRS TO FIND LARRY.
GET OUTTA HERE!
WHERE CAN WE GO?
WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT!
Oh no. YOU GUYS...
...WE'VE GOTTA GO.
CLOSE THOSE DOORS BEFORE ANY EMBERS GET IN.

AGATHA!
IN HERE!


Oh no. ARE YOU OKAY?
I CAME TO CHECK ON LARRY, AND THEN I ENDED UP DOING ALL THE FALLING THIS TIME.
C'mon, WE'VE GOTTA GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE.

=KOFF=
IT WASN'T THIS SMOKY A MINUTE AGO.
I CAN'T SEE A THING.


ARF! ARF!
CHOVY?! I SAID TO WAIT IN THE CAR!
Oh, GOOD. I CAN'T EVEN SEE WITH MY GLASSES, FOLLOW THAT DOGGY'S BARKS!

THERE YOU ARE!
GOOD GIRL, ANCHOVY!
ARF!

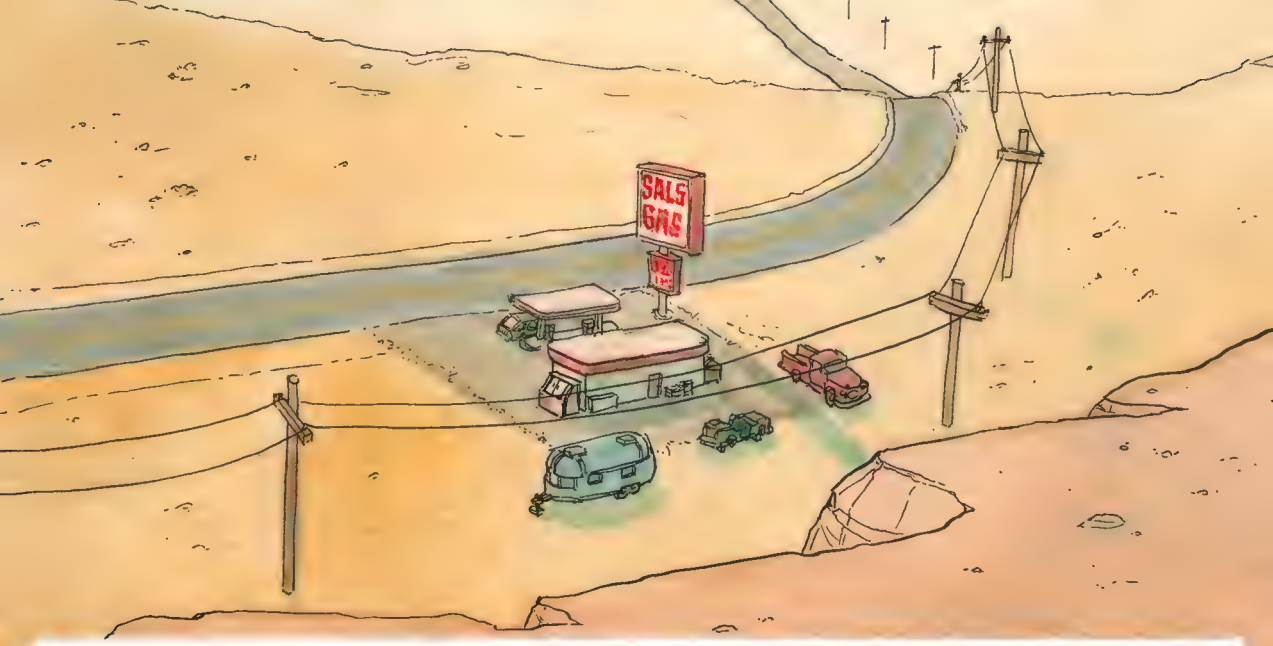
EVERYONE, LISTEN UP! WE'RE GONNA PILE INTO THAT SHUTTLE BUS, AND THIS VERY BRAVE YOUNG TURTLE IS GOING TO DRIVE US TO SAFETY!

I can't drive a bus! How did you even get these?!
Yes you can. I swiped the spare keys when I stopped trusting the staff six months ago.

Well, uh...
...ALL ABOARD!

AND THEN HE SAID HE'D LICK HER FUR CLEAN INSTEAD OF TAKING A SHOWER.
I KNOW!
Ew!
Oh my God, WENDY!
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'RE FROM WOOD-BROOK?!
...IN WHAT CONTINUES TO BE A DEVELOPING STORY, THE STRUCTURE FIRES THROUGH-OUT WOODBROOK HAVE QUICKLY OVERWHELMED THE SMALL TOWN.
LIVE
IN ADDITION, WE'RE AWAITING CONFIRMATION ON GUNFIRE THAT MAY HAVE CRITICALLY WOUNDED SEVERAL DEPUTIES AND POSSIBLY THE SHERIFF.
WHAT BEGAN AS A BEAUTIFUL SPRING DAY HAS QUICKLY DEVOLVED INTO A NIGHTMARE FOR MANY.
NEIGHBORHOODS IN DANGER OF THE SPREADING FIRE ARE BEING EVACUATED.
To be honest, I didn't expect that fire to get so big.
That was really a pleasant surprise.
There was a lot of screaming and crying for a day or so, but it wasn't too bad.
WEEEOOO
WOODBROOK 12
Days like that really put things into focus.

You find out what matters...
...and what doesn't.
It's a good way to free yourself from the past that's holding you back...
...face the music...
...and get a look at what's coming next.
The future was coming fast, knocking on the door of every sleepy town in the country.
The big question was what you wanted to do about it.

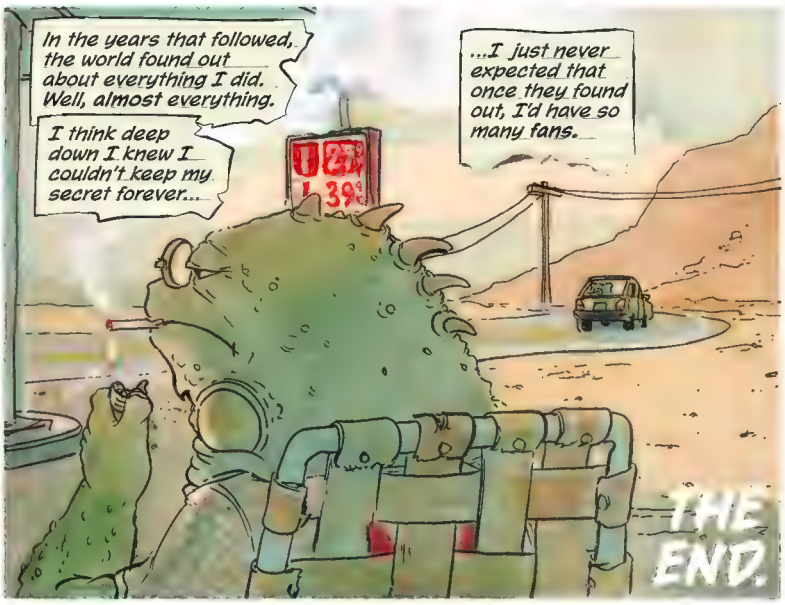

SALS
GAS

I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE THIS GAS STATION OUT HERE.
I'LL TAKE FIFTEEN ON PUMP TWO.

IS THERE A TOWN NEARBY?
WOULDN'T CALL IT A *TOWN.*

YOU HAVE OFFICIALLY REACHED THE MIDDLE OF FUCKING NOWHERE. THERE'S A GROUP OF FOLKS OUT THERE, BUT I COULDN'T SAY HOW MANY.
MOSTLY THEY JUST KEEP TO THEMSELVES. I GET THE FEELING THEY *DON'T LIKE VISITORS.*

The middle of fucking nowhere sounded like just what I was looking for.
NO SMOKING


In the years that followed, the world found out about everything I did. Well, almost everything.
I think deep down I knew I couldn't keep my secret forever...
...I just never expected that once they found out, I'd have so many fans.
THE END.

BENEATH THE TREES WHERE NOBODY SEES

RITE OF SPRING

1

HORVATH · OTSMANE-ELHAOU

BENEATH THE TREES

WHERE NOBODY SEES "RITE OF SPRING PART 1"

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COVER BY: TONY FLEECS SR. ART DIRECTOR: NEIL UYETAKE DIRECT MARKET SALES: RYAN BALKAM EDITOR IN CHIEF BOBBY CURNOW

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WHERE NOBODY SEES
RITE OF SPRING
1
MATURE

ART BY TONY FLEECS
Killer bear.
BENEATH THE TREES
1
MATURE

ART BY RILEY ROSSMO
Beneath The Trees
WHERE NOBODY SEES
RITE OF SPRING
1
MATURE

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RITE OF SPRING

2

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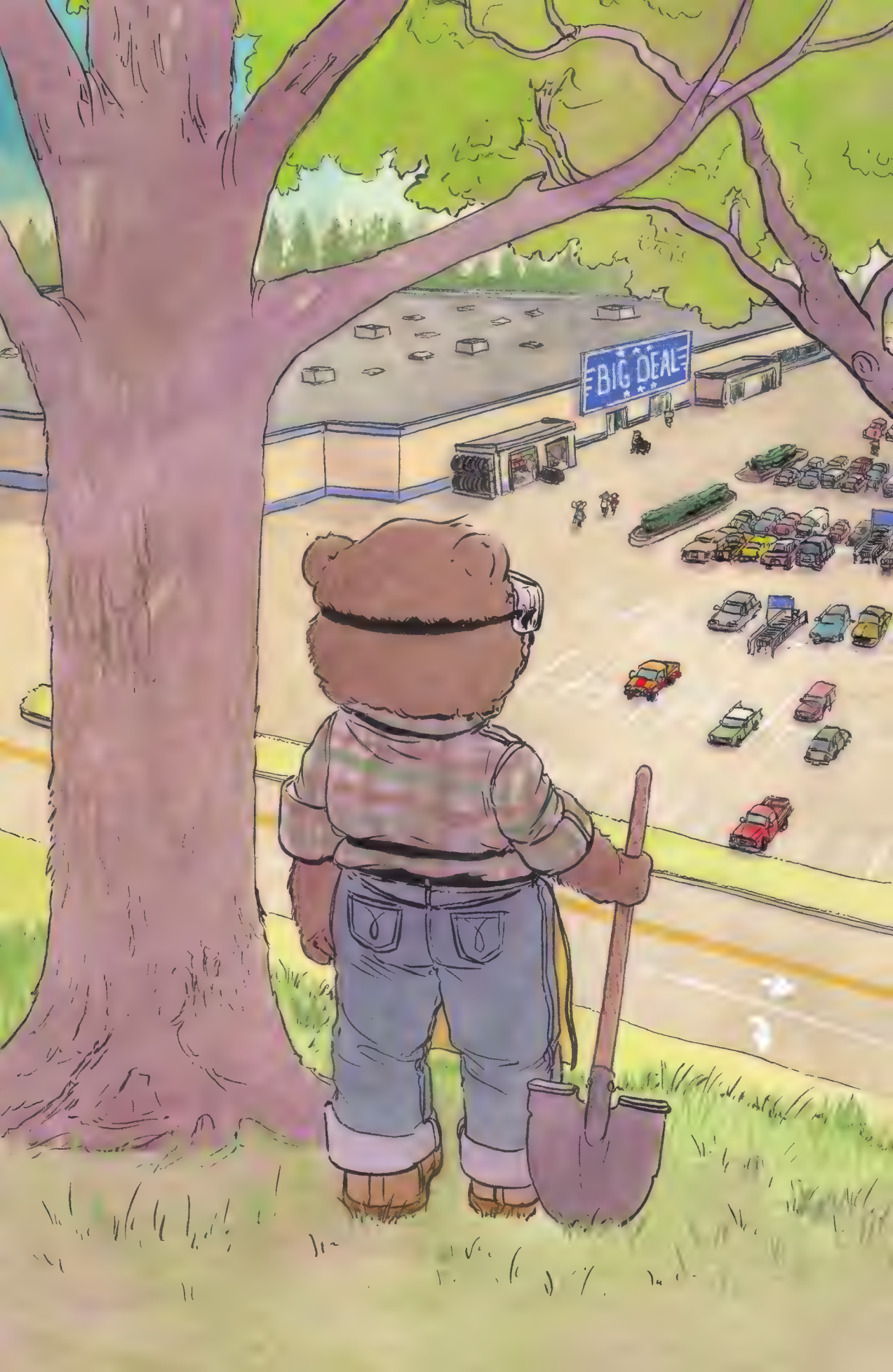
BIG DEAL

Written and drawn by PATRICK HORVATH
with letters by HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU
A PATRICK HORVATH COMIC
BENEATH THE TREES WHERE NOBODY SEES.
RITE OF SPRING ISSUE 2
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COMICS AND ENTERTAINMENT

BENEATH THE TREES

Where Nobody Sees

Rite of Spring

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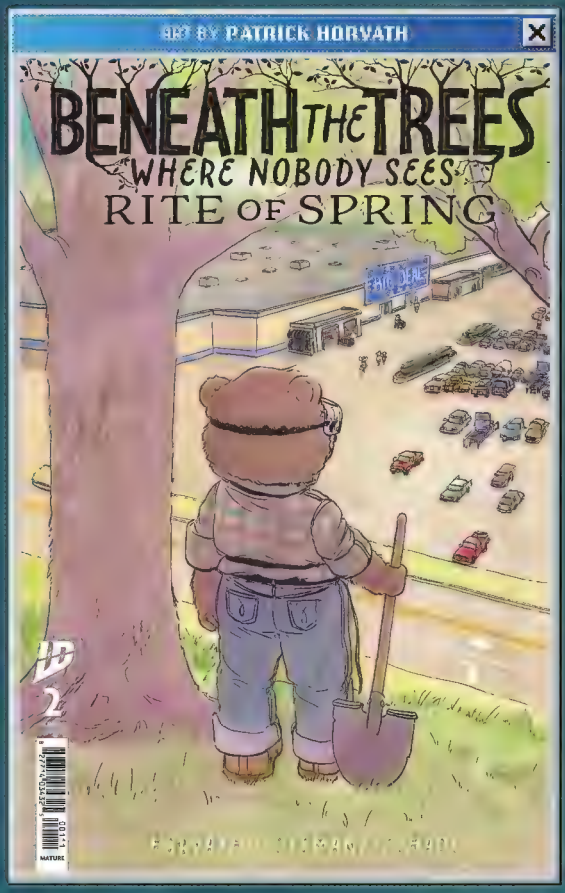

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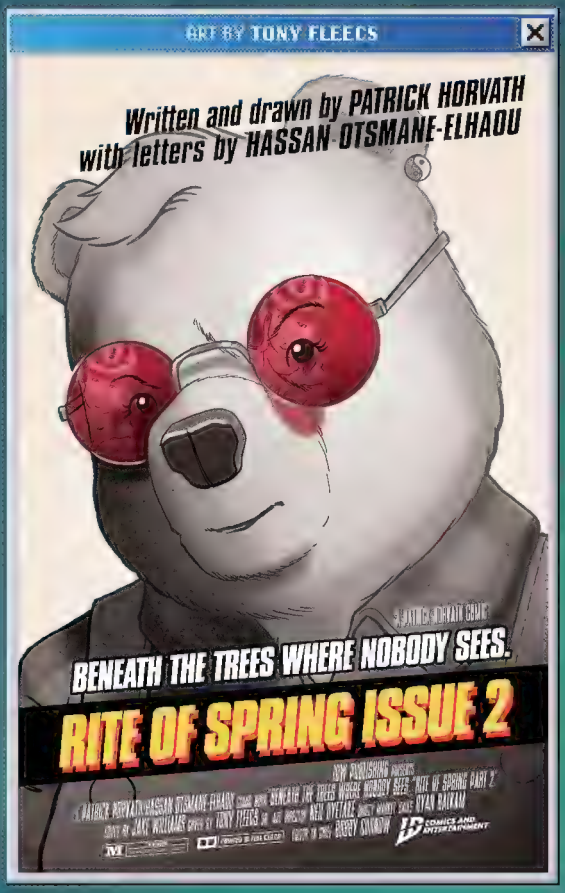
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RITE OF SPRING ISSUE 2

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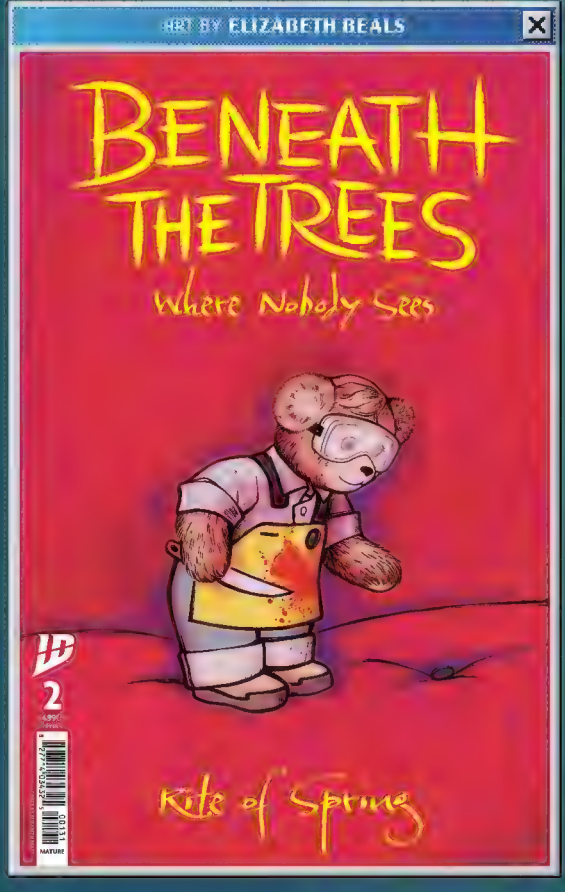

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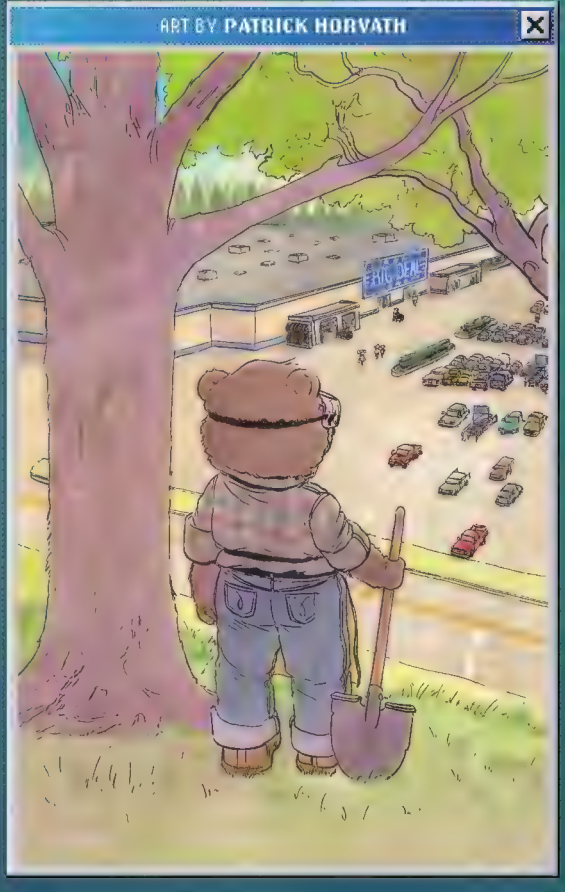

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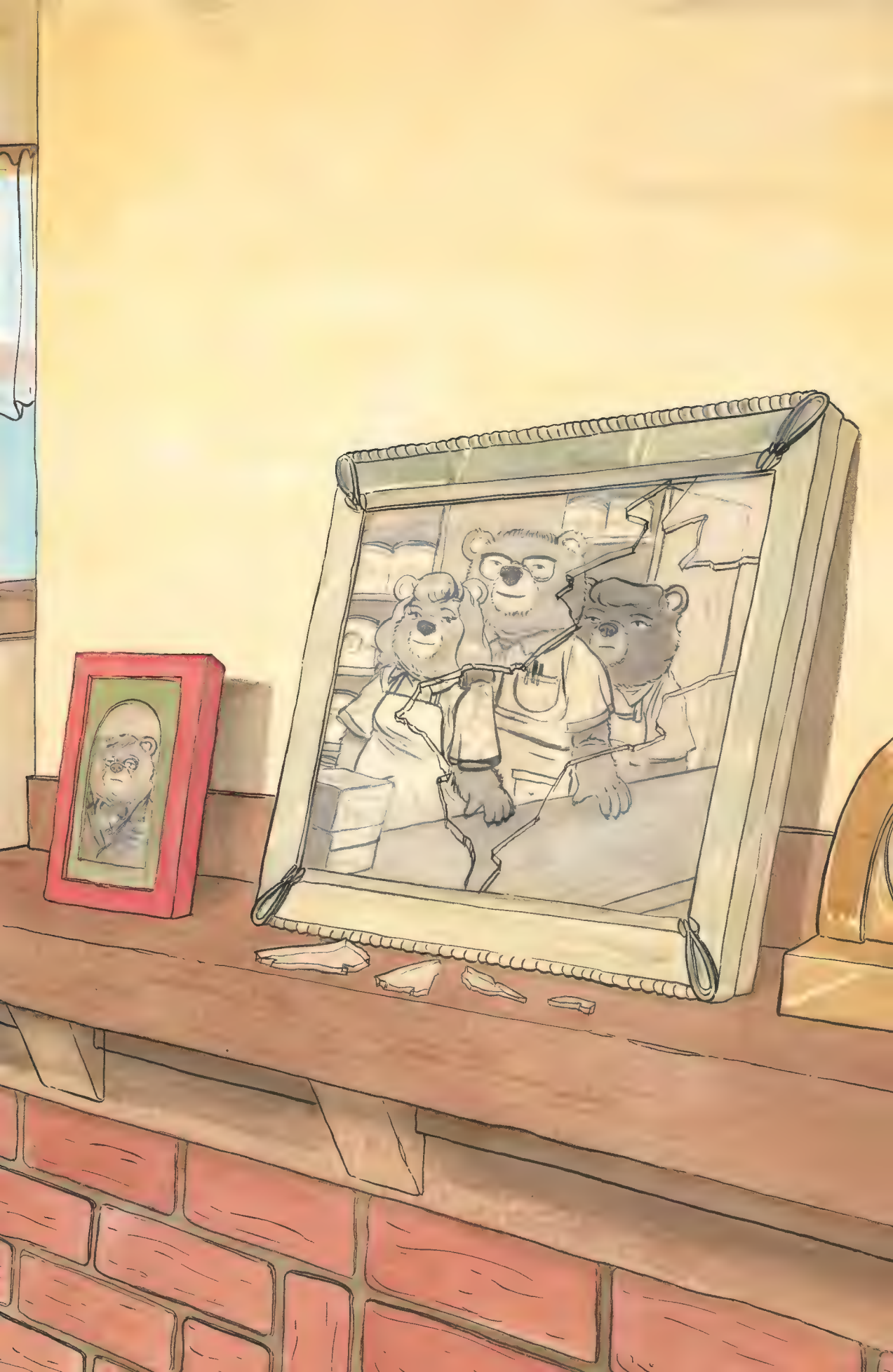

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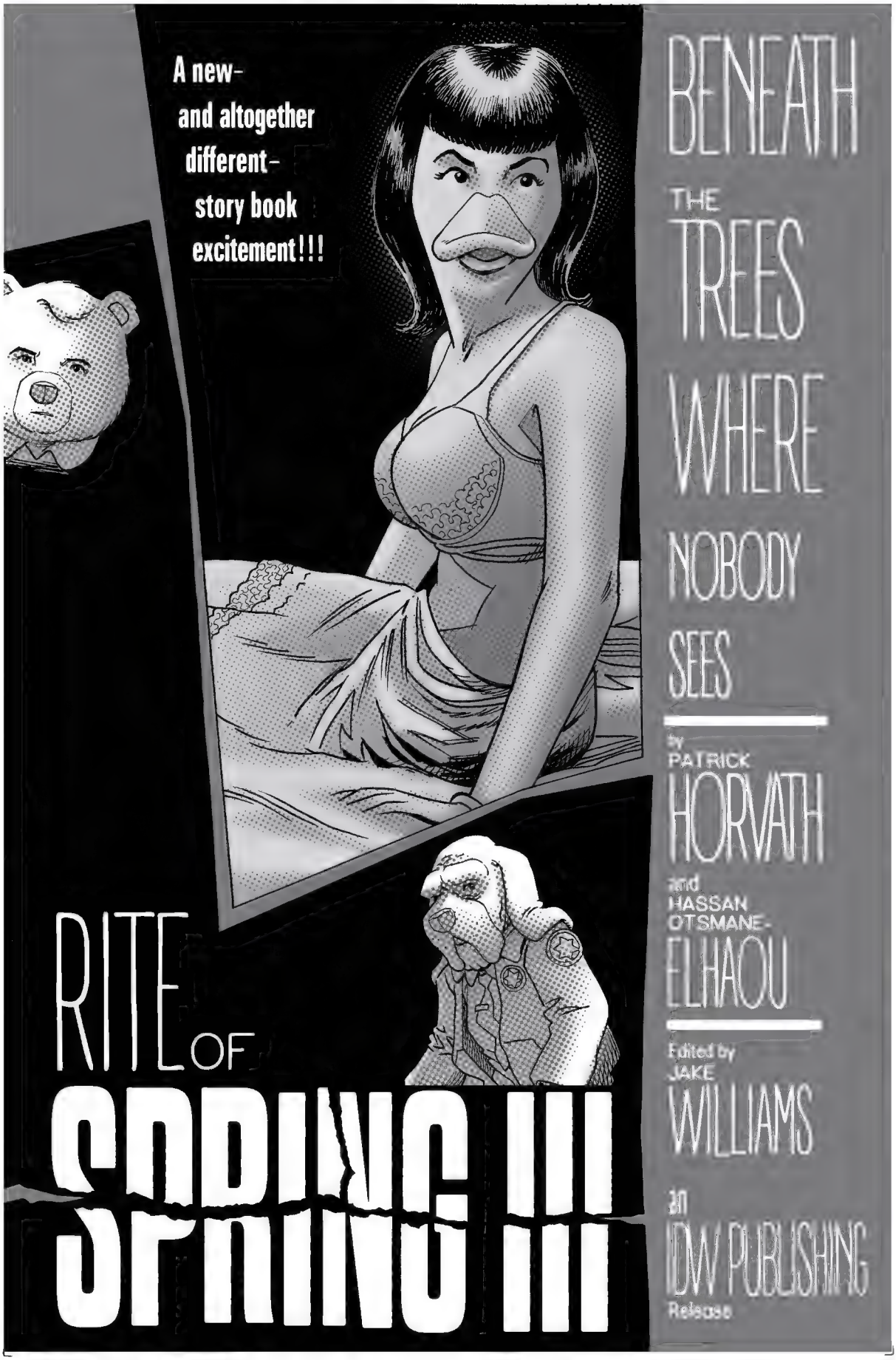

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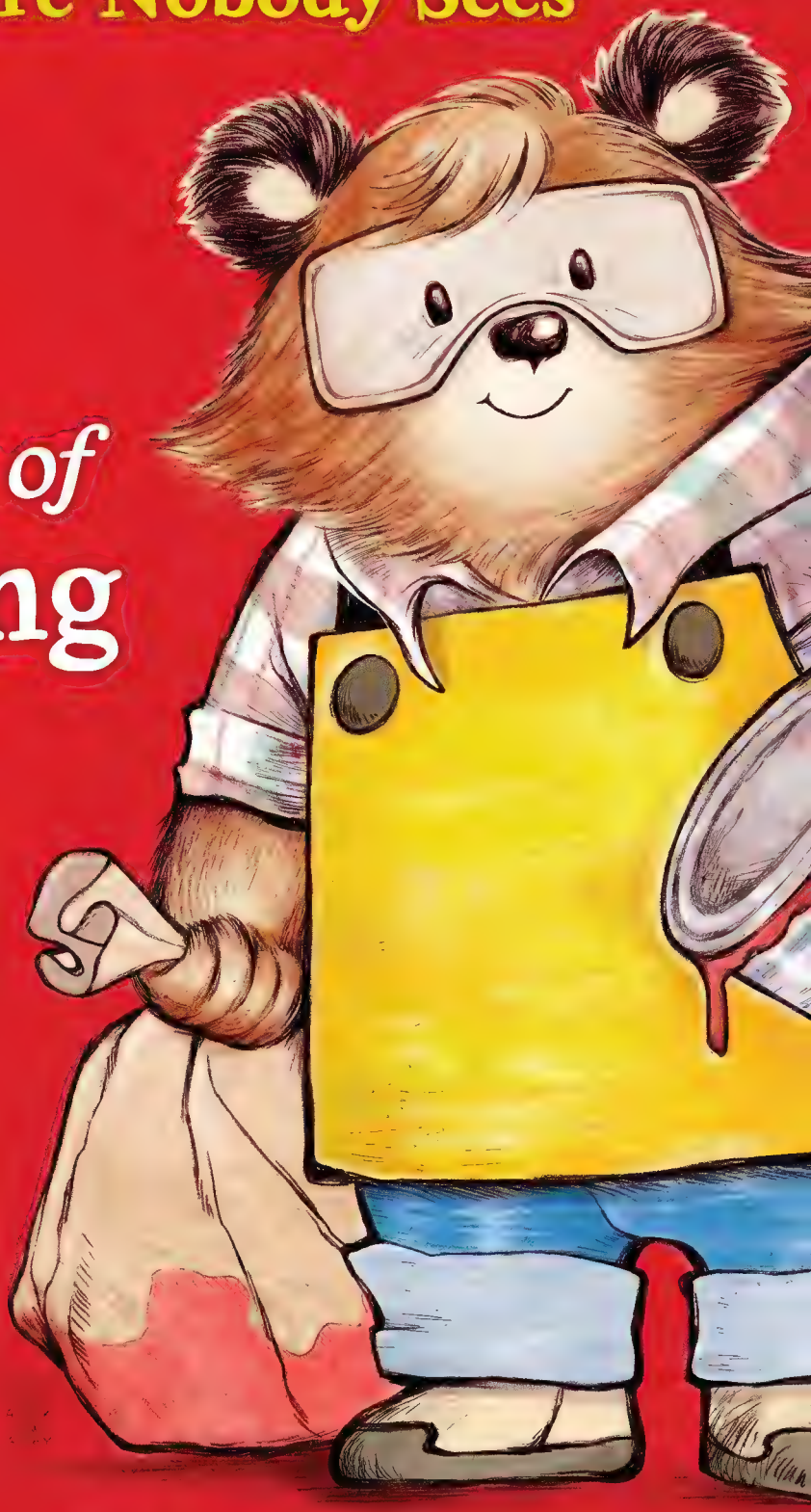

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★★★★ "Twisted and gorgeous." -Alex Schlesinger, Screen Rant

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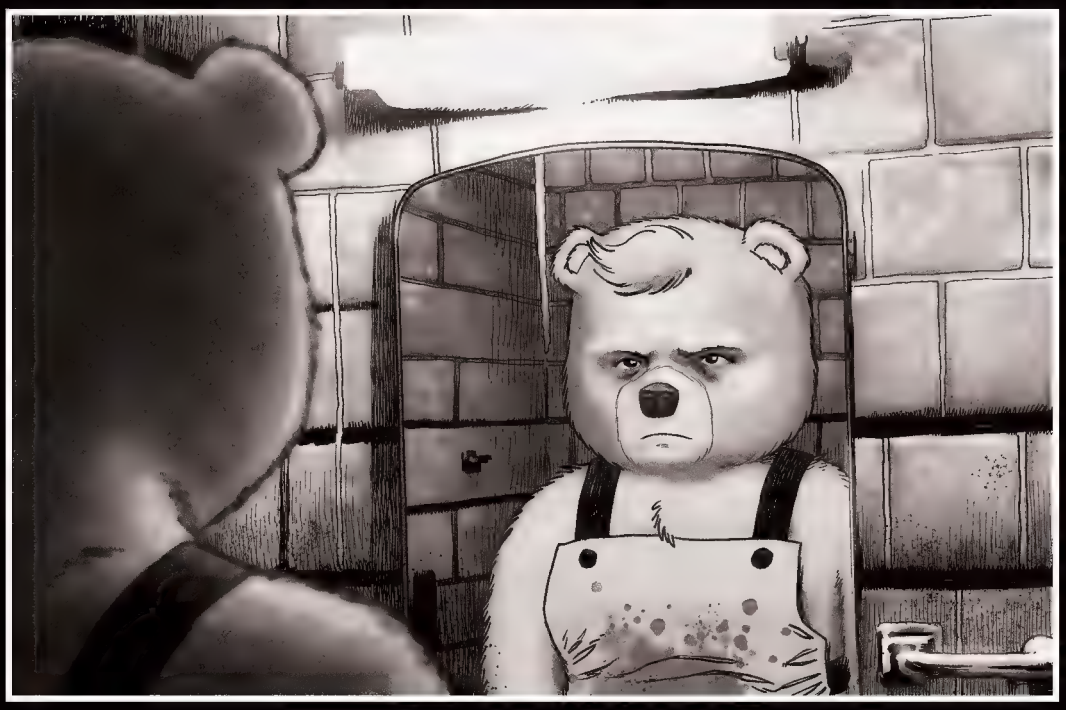

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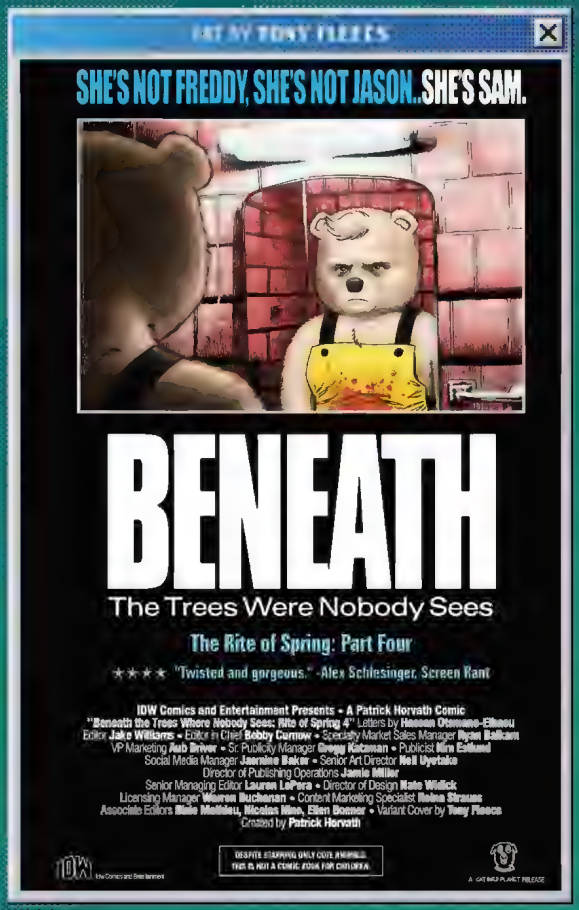
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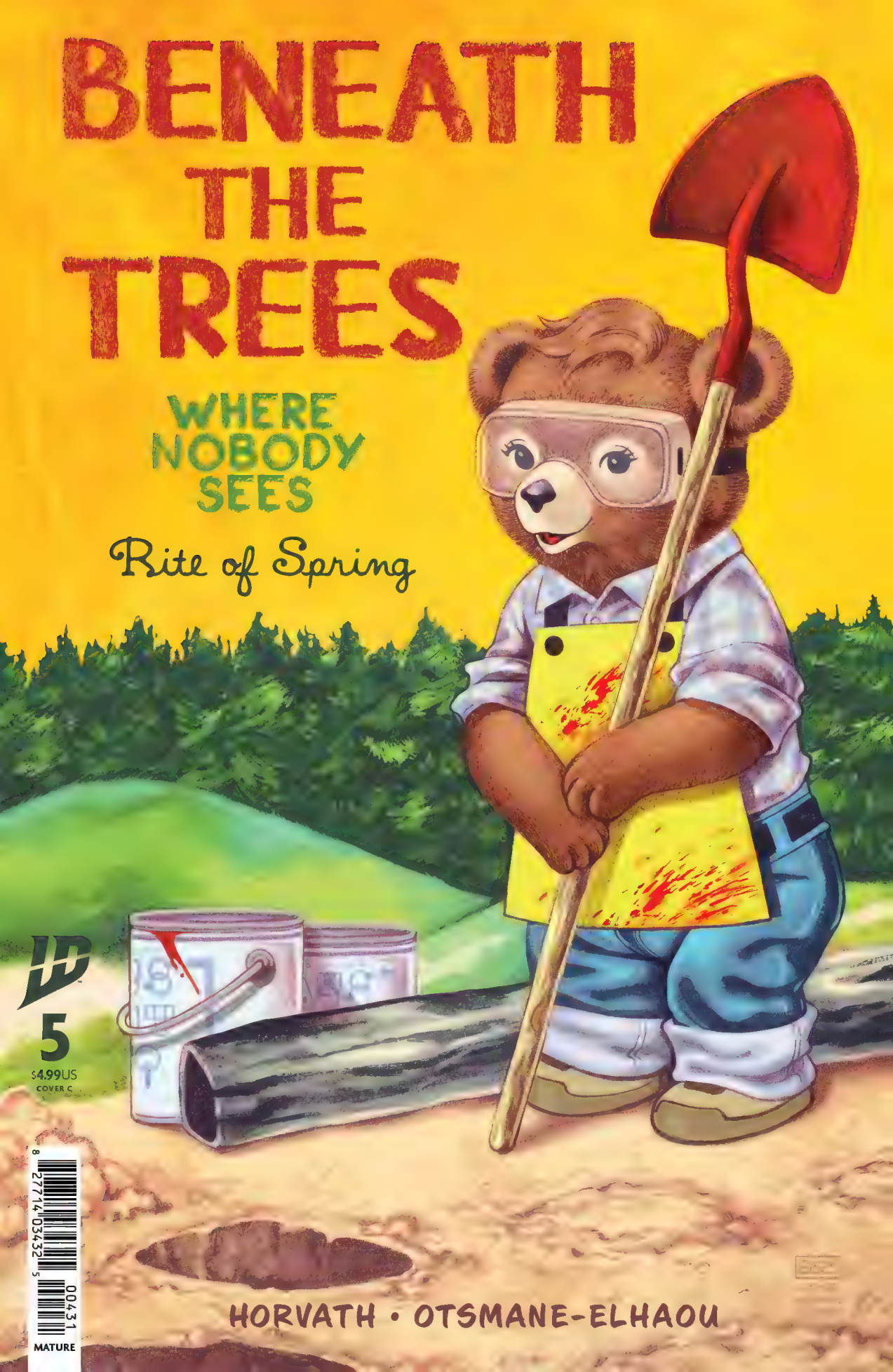
WHERE NOBODY SEES

Rite of Spring



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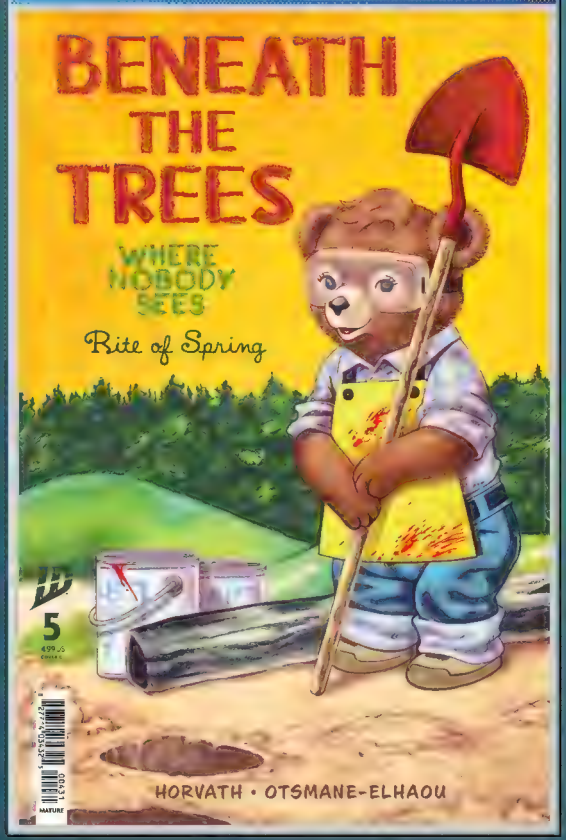

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–*CAPES & TIGHTS*

BENEATH THE TREES
WHERE NOBODY SEES

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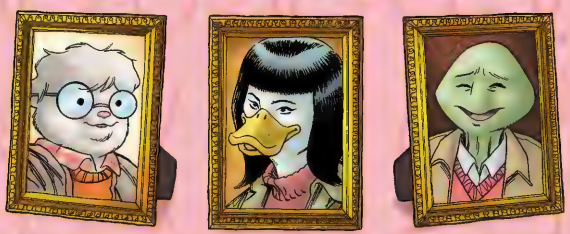

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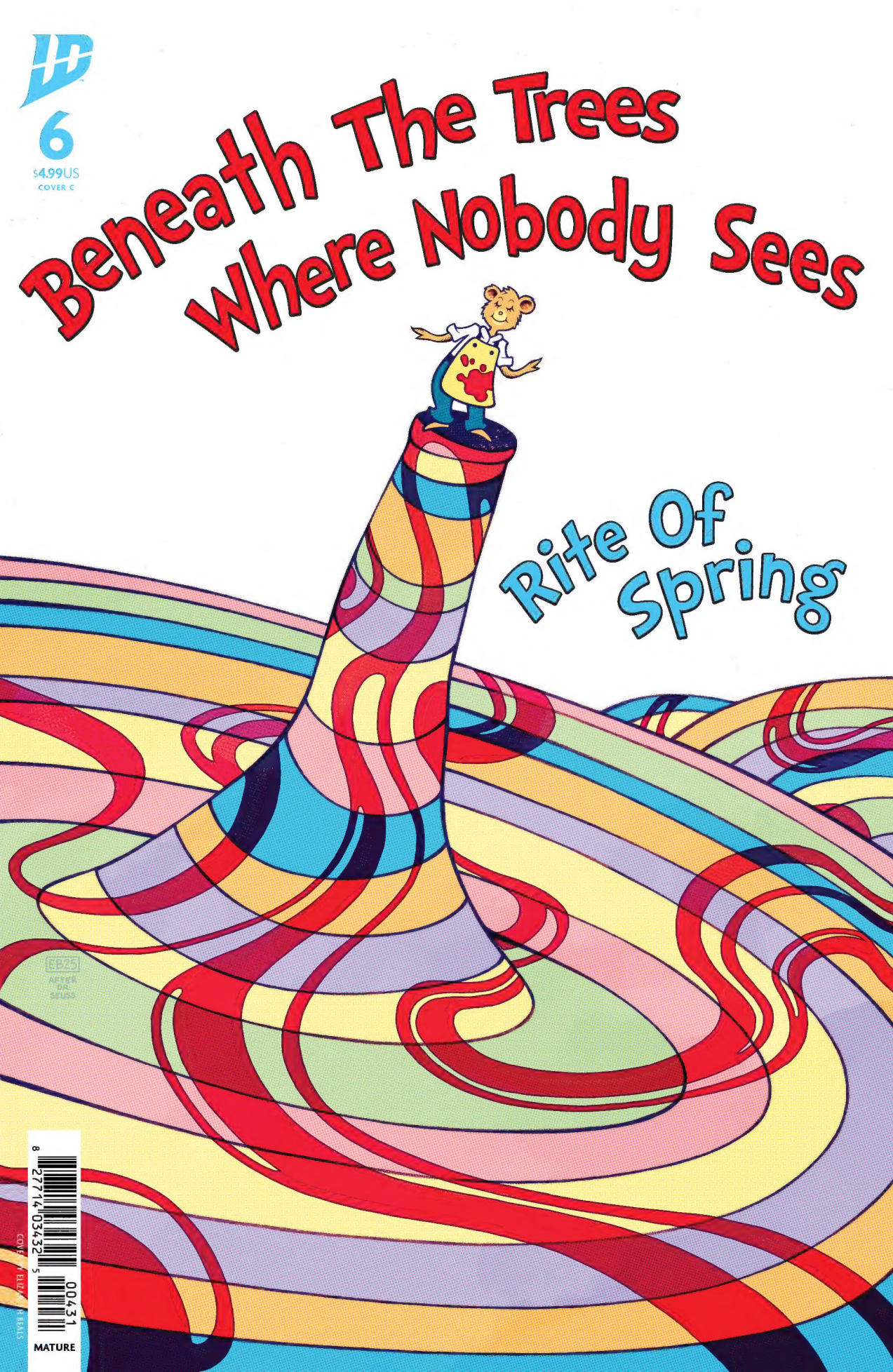
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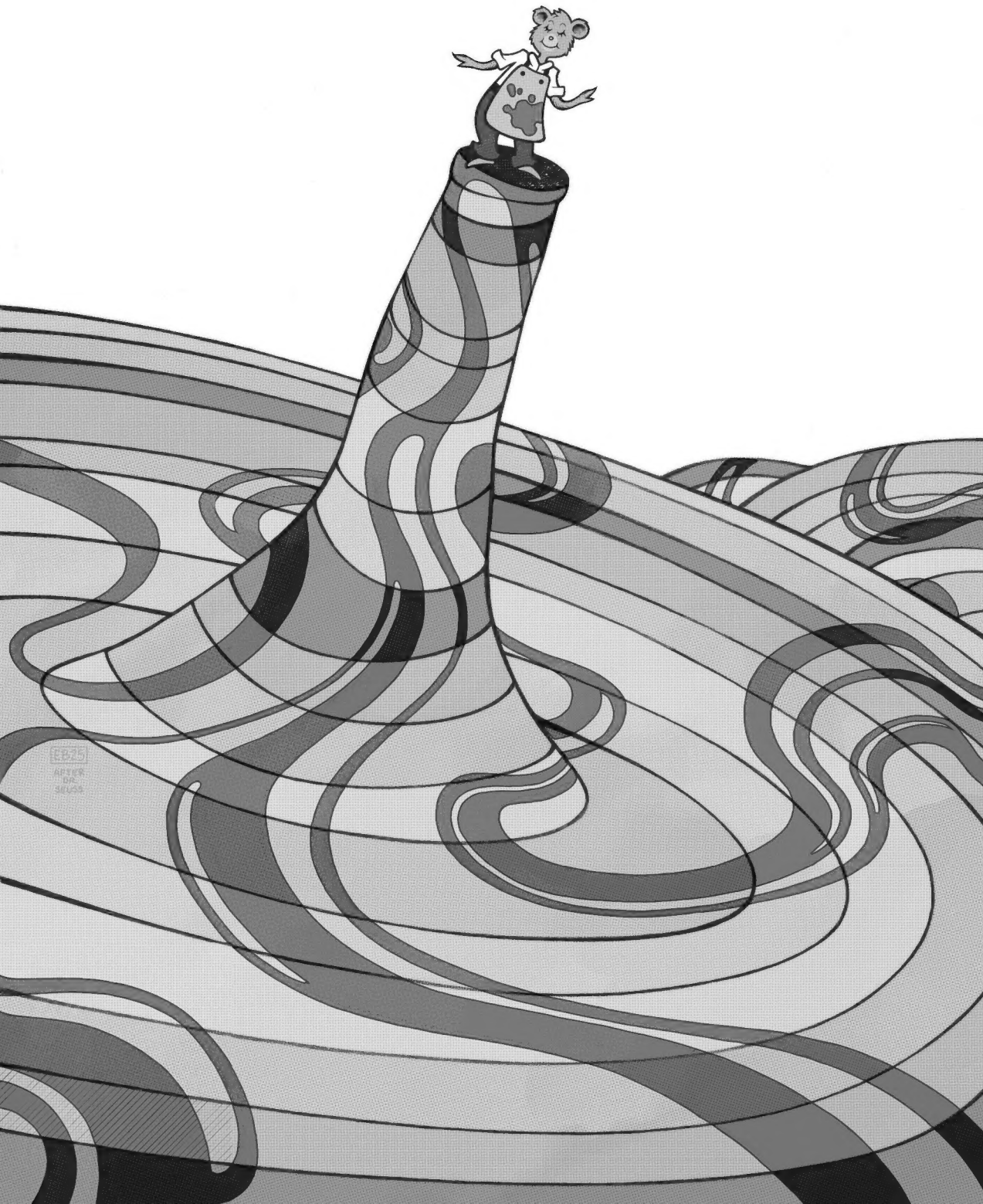

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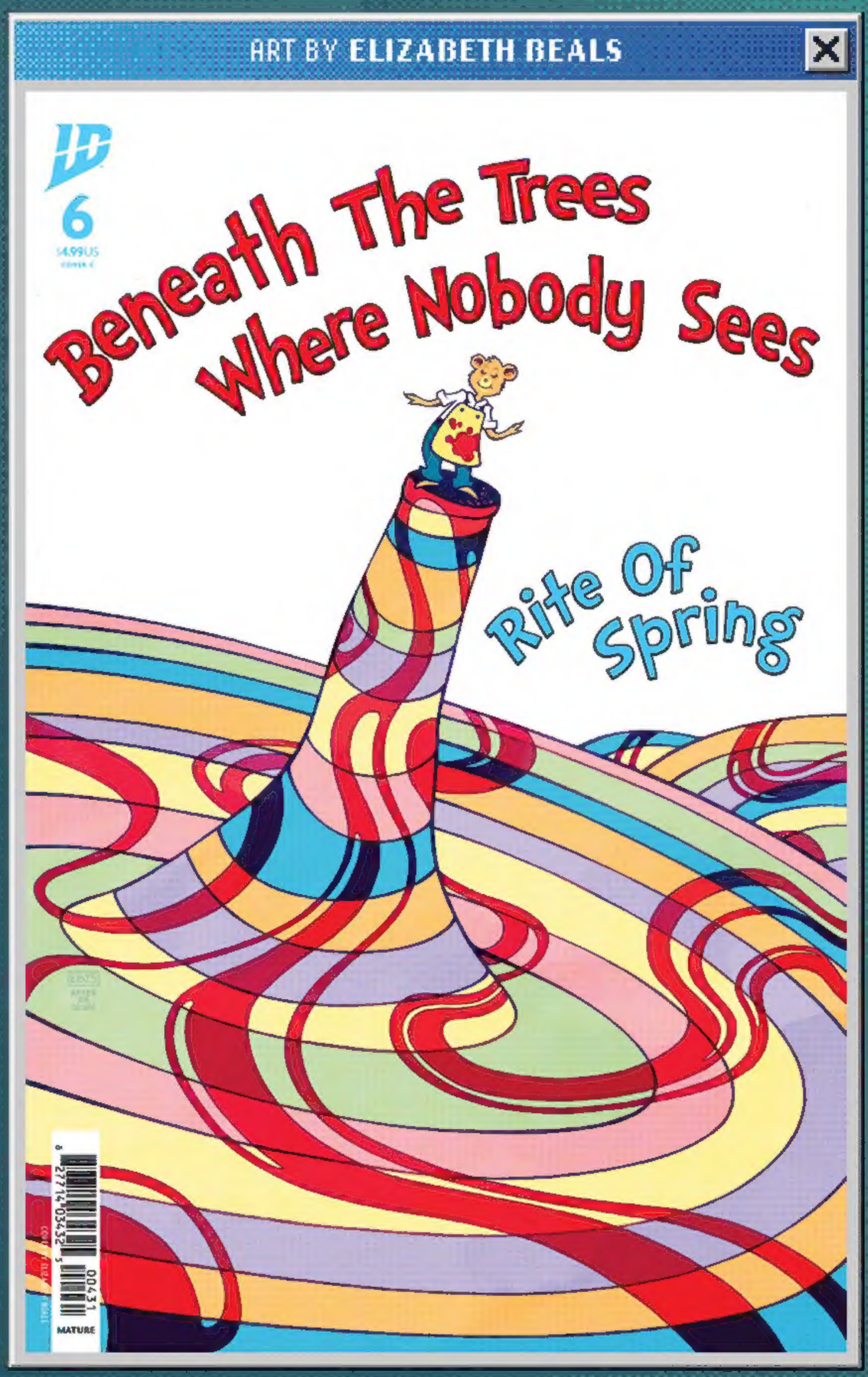

Patrick Horvath is a cartoonist and filmmaker who lives with his family in Los Angeles. *Beneath the Trees Where Nobody Sees* is his first published series as writer and artist—hopefully the first of many.